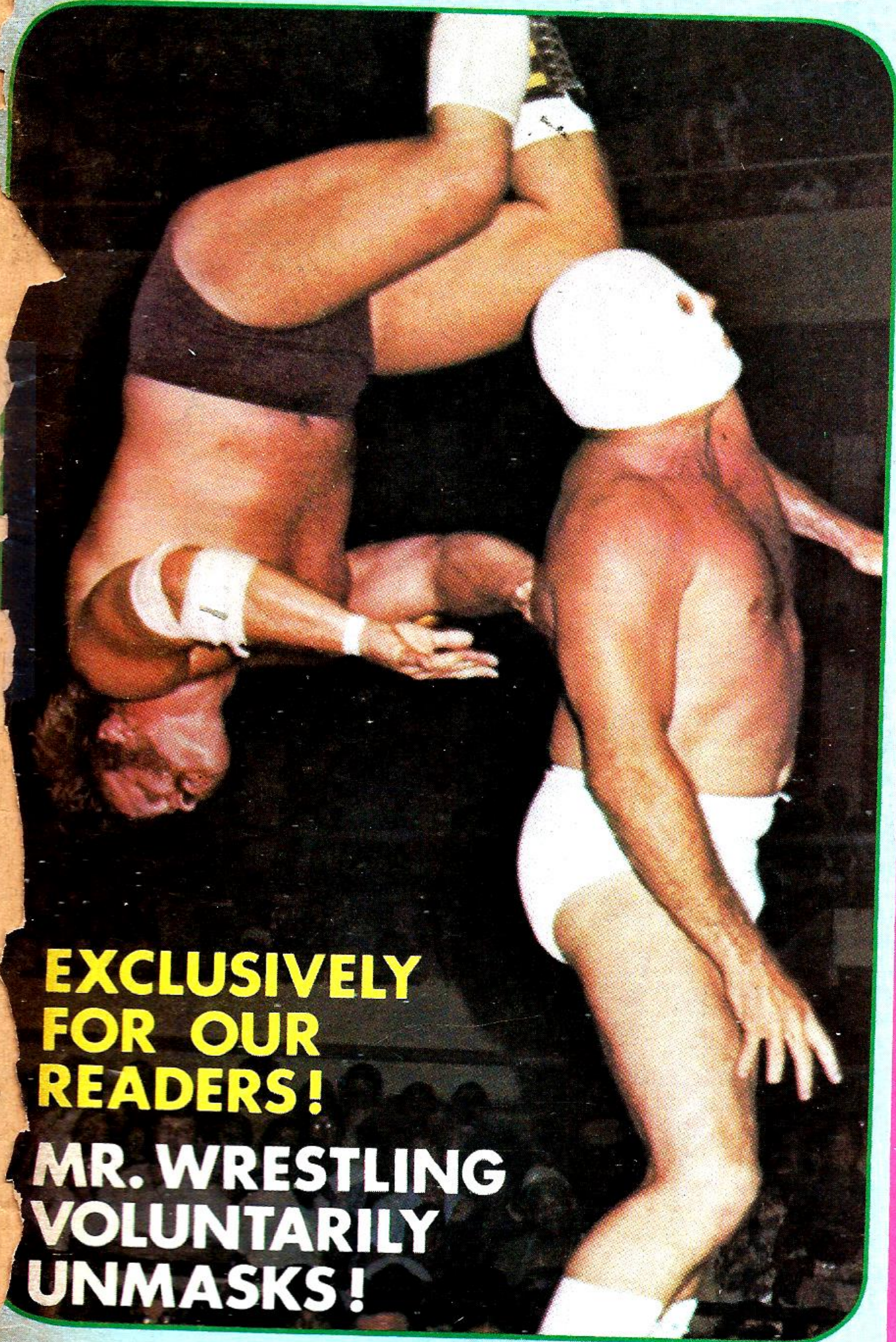


SPORTS REVIEW

JANUARY 1975
47817 75¢

Wrestling



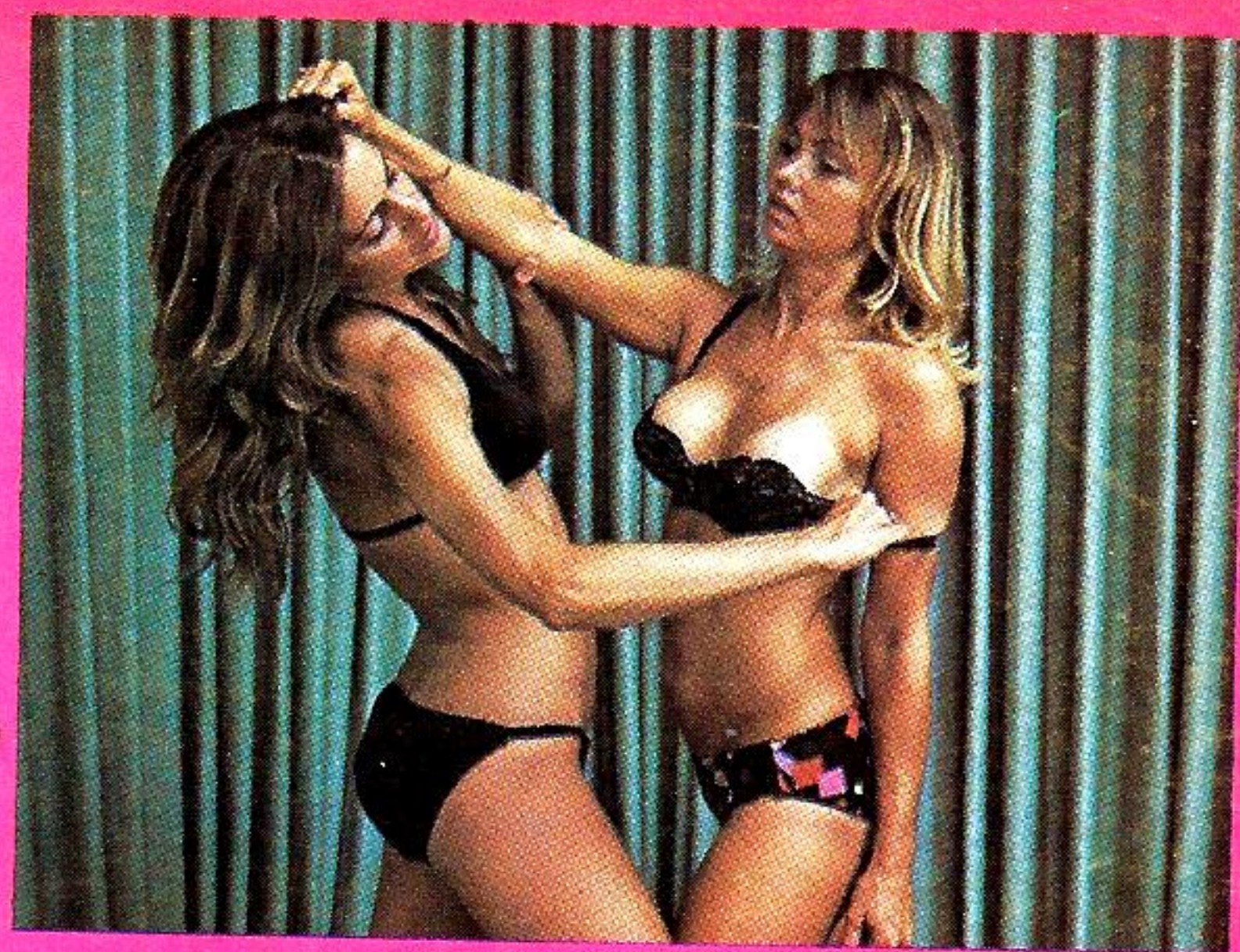
**EXCLUSIVELY
FOR OUR
READERS!**

**MR. WRESTLING
VOLUNTARILY
UNMASKS!**

**DESTROYER AND MASCARAS
TEAR UP A TAG TEAM MATCH!**

**TRAPPED BETWEEN TWO RAGING GIANTS—
ANDRE AND DON LEO JONATHAN!**

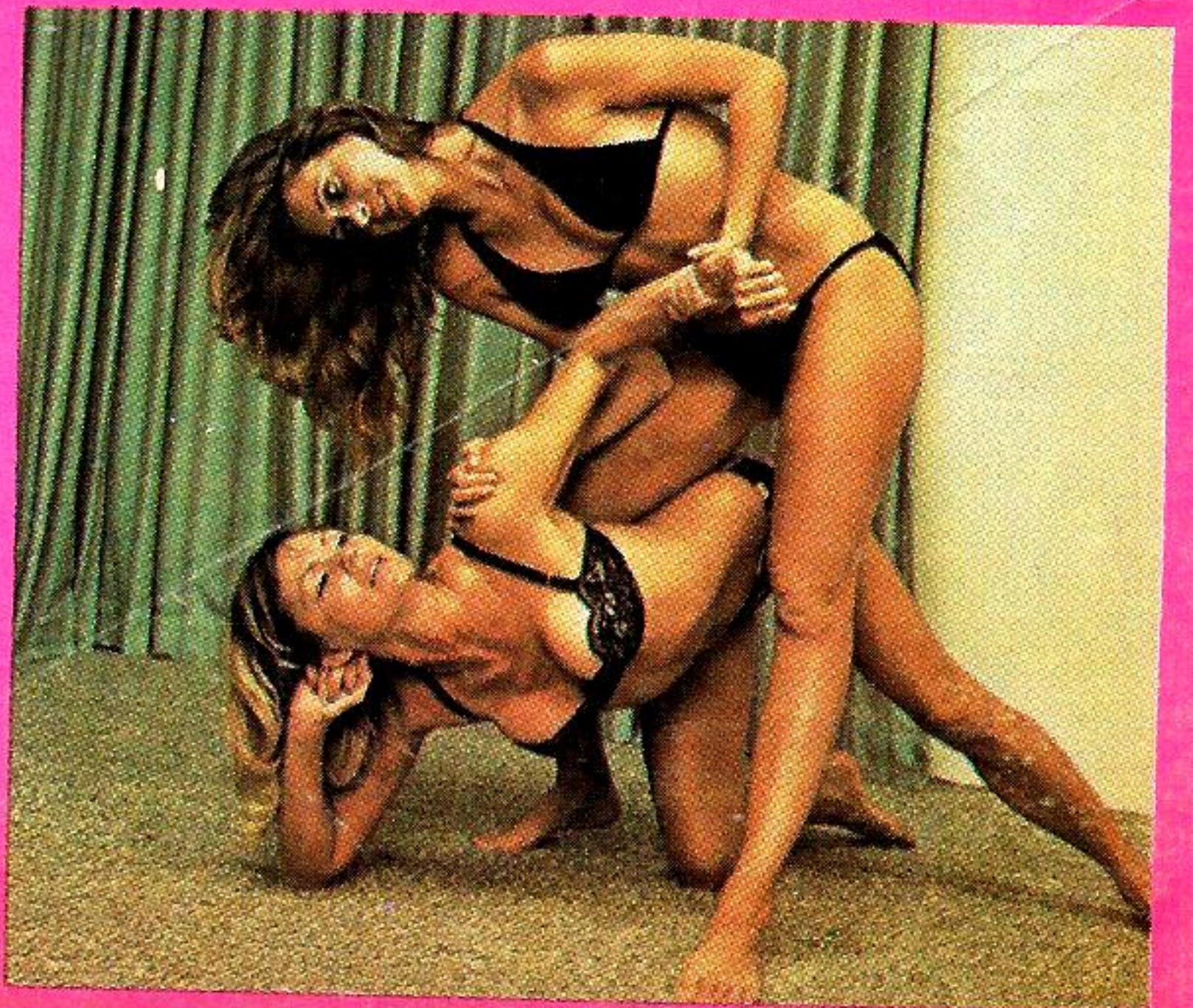
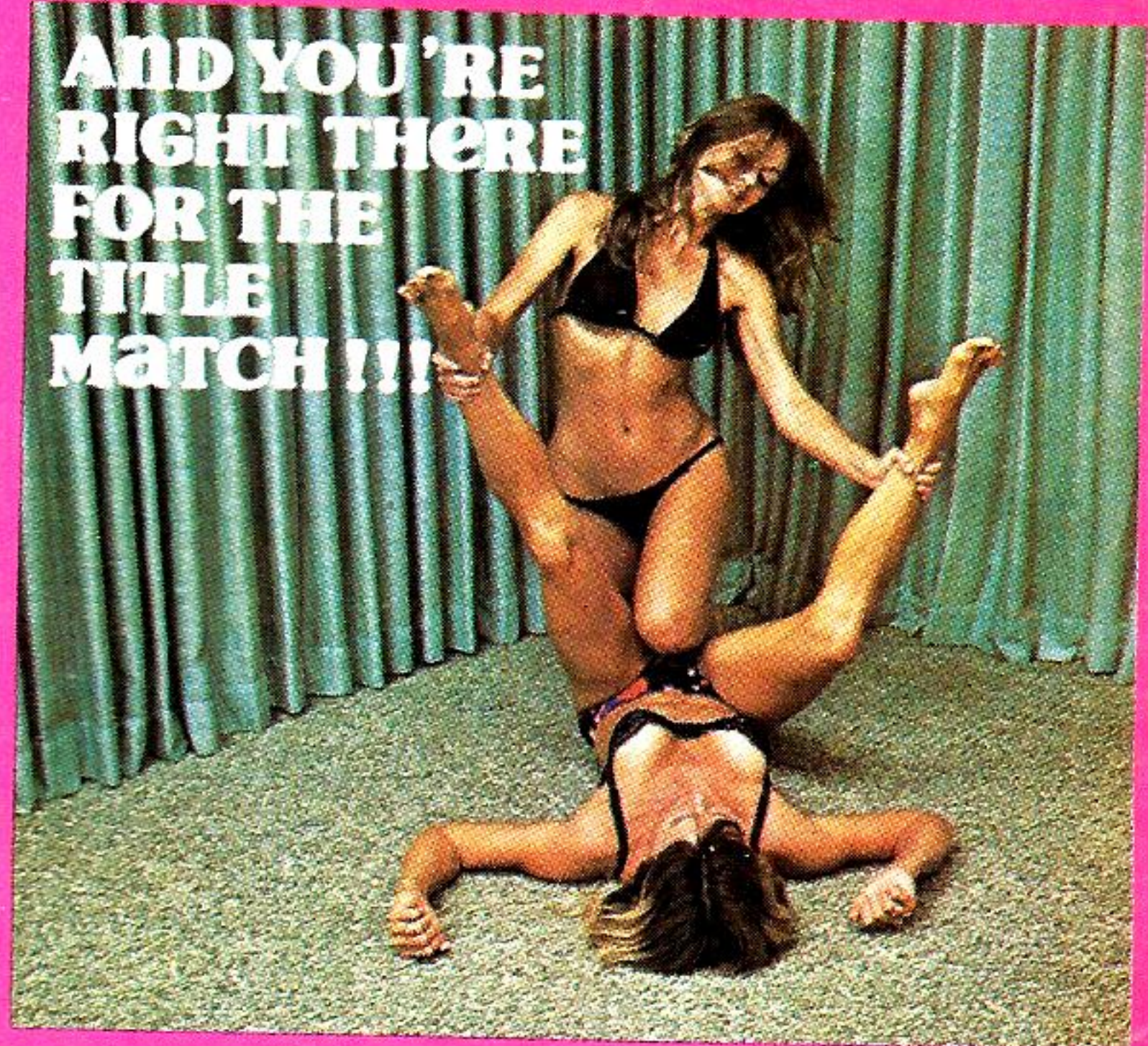
**THE STORY OF A
COURAGEOUS REFEREE!**



★ ★
**APARTMENT
HOUSE
WRESTLING
GETS ITS
FIRST
CHAMPION!!!**



**AND YOU'RE
RIGHT THERE
FOR THE
TITLE
MATCH!!!**



OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

WORLD WIDE WRESTLING FEDERATION

CHAMPION: BRUNO SAMMARTINO

- 1—PEDRO MORALES
- 2—CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW
- 3—KOBAYASHI
- 4—KILLER KOWALSKI
- 5—NIKOLI VOLKOFF
- 6—GORILLA MONSOON
- 7—HAYSTACKS CALHOUN
- 8—TONY GAREA
- 9—DEAN HO
- 10—LARRY ZBYSZKO

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

CHAMPION: VERNE GAGNE

- 1—BILLY ROBINSON
- 2—IVAN PUTSKI
- 3—RAY STEVENS
- 4—BILLY GRAHAM
- 5—NICK BOCKWINKLE
- 6—THE CRUSHER
- 7—WAHOO MCDANIEL
- 8—KEN PATERA
- 9—GREG GAGNE
- 10—CHRIS TAYLOR

MIDGETS

- 1—LITTLE BEAVER
- 2—SKY LOW LOW
- 3—FRENCHY LAMONT
- 4—LITTLE BRUISER
- 5—BILLY THE KID
- 6—LITTLE BRUTUS
- 7—JOEY RUSSELL
- 8—TOM POUCE
- 9—FARMER JEROME
- 10—HAITI KID



KILLER KOWALSKI



GREG GAGNE

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

CHAMPION: JACK BRISCO

- 1—DORY FUNK JR.
- 2—BUDDY COLT
- 3—TERRY FUNK
- 4—THE SHEIK
- 5—TIM WOODS
- 6—MOONDOG MAYNE
- 7—HARLEY RACE
- 8—MR. WRESTLING II
- 9—BRUISER
- 10—JOHNNY VALENTINE

TAG TEAMS

- 1—JIM & JOHN VALIANT
- 2—TONY MARINO & BOBO BRAZIL
- 3—CRUSHER & BILLY ROBINSON
- 4—RAY STEVENS & NICK BOCKWINKLE
- 5—PORKCHOP & MANUEL SOTO
- 6—THE VON BRAUNERS
- 7—THE ANDERSON BROTHERS
- 8—TONY GAREA & DEAN HO
- 9—GOLIATH & BLACK GORDMAN
- 10—RAY STEVENS & NICK BOCKWINKLE

WOMEN

CHAMPION: THE FABULOUS MOOLAH

- 1—VIVIAN VACHON
- 2—VICKI WILLIAMS
- 3—BETTY NICCOLI
- 4—DEBBIE JOHNSON
- 5—JOYCE GRABLE
- 6—PEGGY PATTERSON
- 7—MISS WRESTLING
- 8—LILY THOMAS
- 9—DONNA CHRISTENELLO
- 10—KAY NOBLE

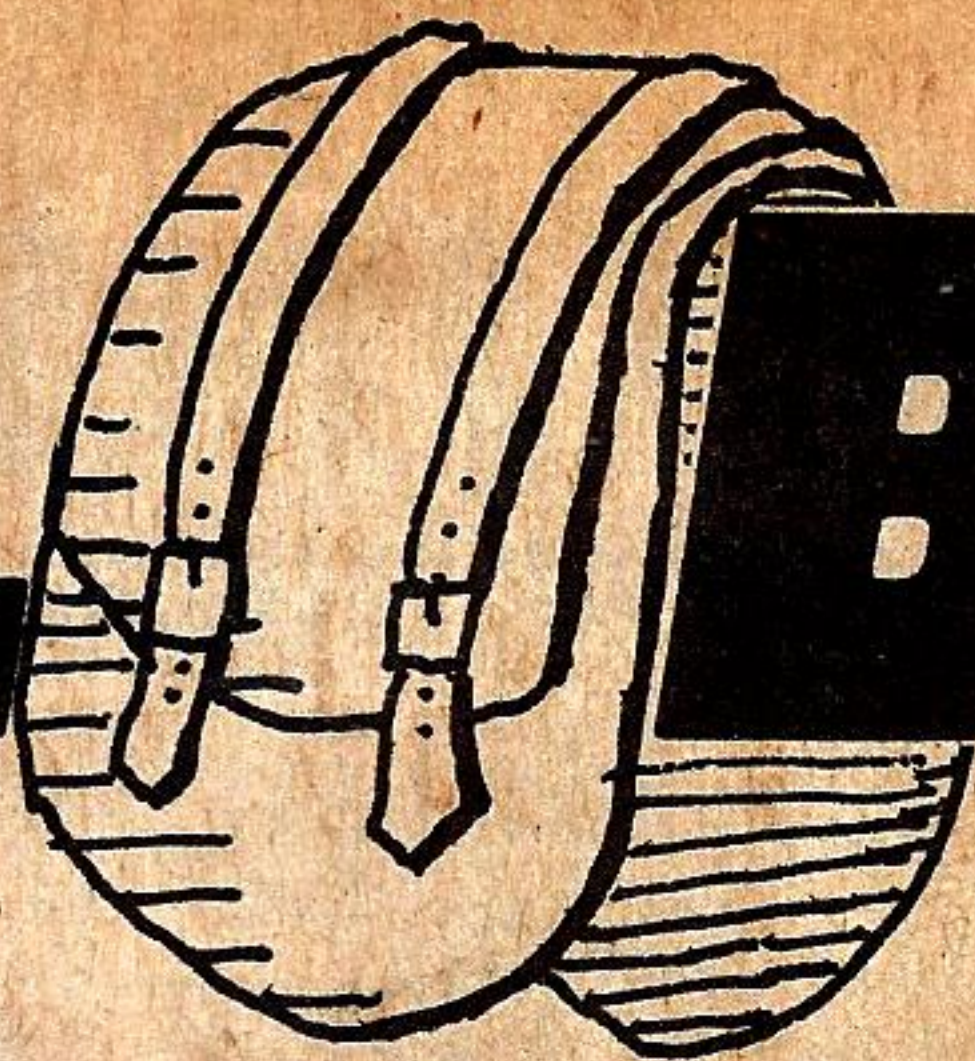


BUDDY COLT



BETTY NICCOLI

MAILBAG



APPLAUDING CONFESSIONS

The "Startling Confessions of Apartment House Wrestlers" (SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING/November '74) is a perfect illustration of why the liberated woman is the most dynamic force in America today.

The ladies are great! They do what they want when they want. They tolerate no nonsense and refuse to stay in their "place" whatever that is. All women are a little freer due to the apartment house wrestlers.

Right on, ladies! Your sisters are with you!

SAMANTHA RICHARDS
New York, N.Y.

MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

Verne Gagne's 25 years in the forefront of professional wrestling is a record which is almost as impressive as the man himself.

I have followed Verne's amazing career with the fervor only a fanatical fan can muster. You can be sure your deserved tribute, "Verne Gagne's 25 Years in Wrestling," will have a special place in my Gagne scrapbook.

Verne Gagne has brought a special magic and dignity to wrestling for a quarter of a century. May he do so for many years to come.

DENNIS NYLAD
St. Paul, Minn.

GONE TOO FAR

Hasn't the foreign object become too much a part of wrestling? When Lord Al Hays can spit on the rules and injure his opponents with his loaded glove, something has to be done.

Ironically, in the same issue telling of Hays' latest outrage (SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING), there is an article telling of the many deaths professional wrestlers have suffered in competition. Can't we see how horribly related these two articles are?



Something must be done to stop the carnage before professional wrestling itself is stopped!

ALLEN STEPHENS
Butte, Mont.

THE LAST LAUGH

Why don't the wrestling commissions have the last laugh on Tor Kamata, who proudly proclaims he laughs at the rules? Ban the Japanese louse from wrestling! Let's see him laugh *that* off!

Banning Kamata will not only rid wrestling of one of its most vicious villains, but it will also serve as a warning to all other rulebreakers. The rules are there for *all* to observe and the penalties should be strict if the wrestlers fail to obey them.

ROSS HUMPHRIES
Atlanta, Ga.

CONGRATULATIONS FOR McSHANE

I have spent many years down here in Texas booing wrestler Danny McShane whenever he entered the arena. He was the dirtiest, cruelest cuss I ever saw. I couldn't imagine

Samantha Richards praises the women who are apartment house wrestlers for their courage and independance in today's world.

anyone meaner, through and through.

Well, I could have been knocked over by a hummingbird feather when I read how McShane, now a referee, slugged it out with Bull Ramos to uphold the rules (SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING/November '74)! If that don't beat all!

It just goes to show you can never tell what goes through a human being's mind. If McShane can change so drastically, I guess anyone can!

JASPER RAUSCHENBERG
Pocatello, Idaho

CONGRATULATIONS FOR CASH

Porkchop Cash did wrestling a favor when he took the belt from John Tolos, as reported in SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING/November '74. It's about time someone pounded the air out of that windbag!

Tolos has for too long been insulting the fine wrestlers of the West
(Continued on page 46)

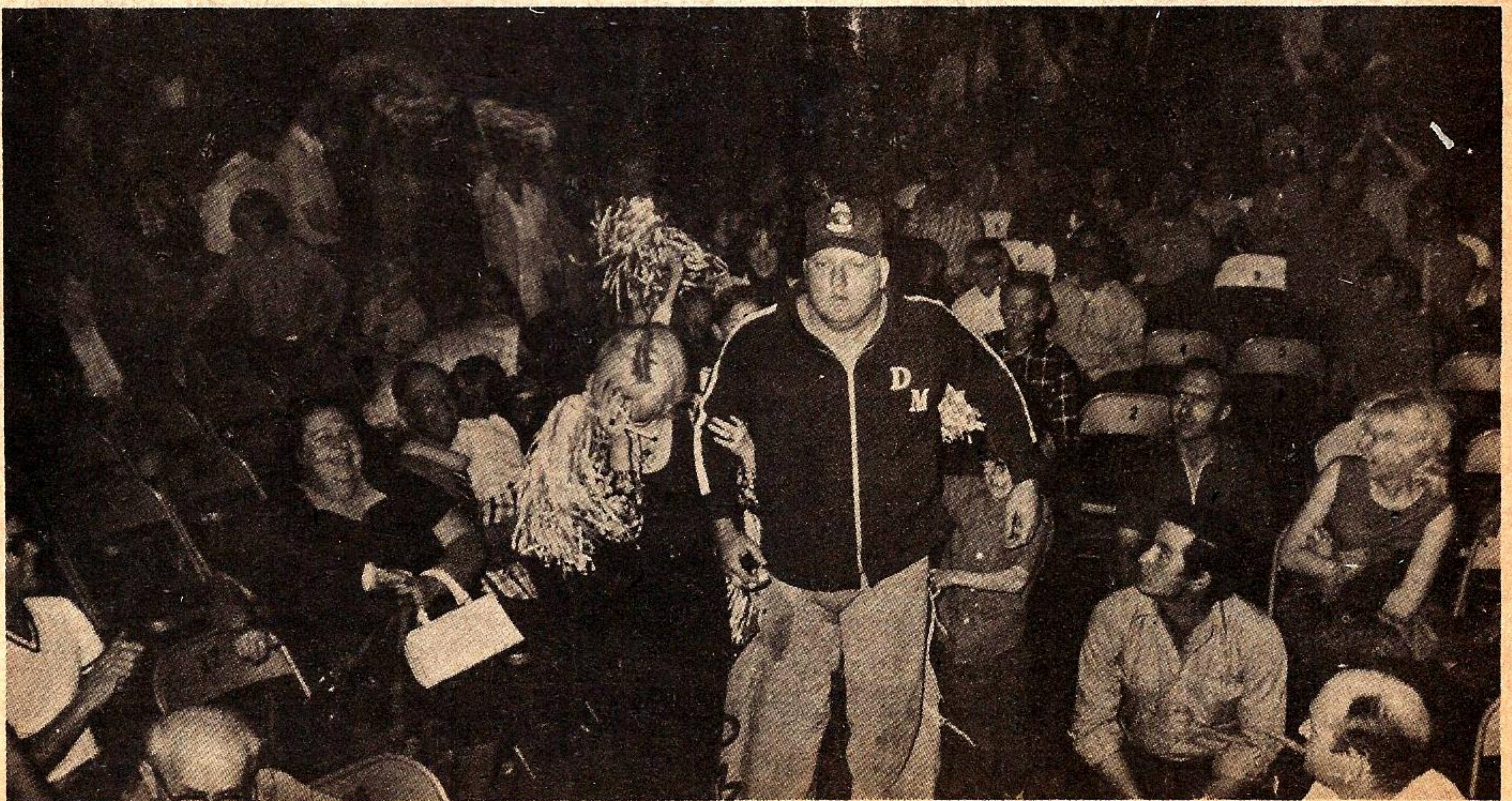
WHO'D HAVE BELIEVED IT? DICK MURDOCH'S GOT HIS OWN CHEERLEADERS!



The enthusiastic young girls cheer when Dick enters the ring and when he's winning the bout. "Since he's changed his style," one blonde beauty declares, "he's become my hero! Dick Murdoch is now the greatest!"

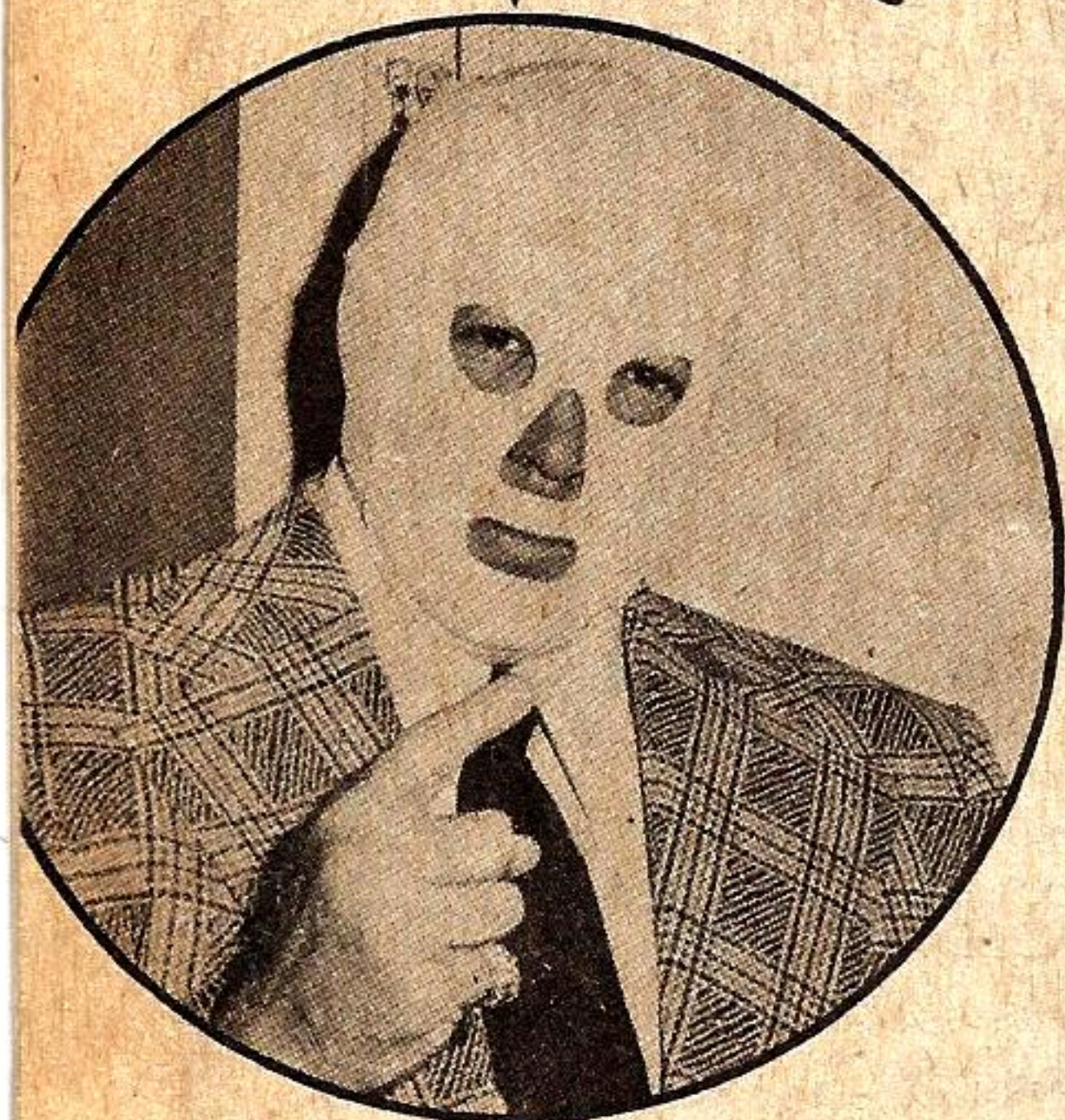
Cheerleaders for "Dirty Dick Murdoch? It's true! And it's all because he's not "Dirty" Dick any more

PHOTOS BY BILL BEACH



**EXCLUSIVELY
FOR OUR
READERS!**

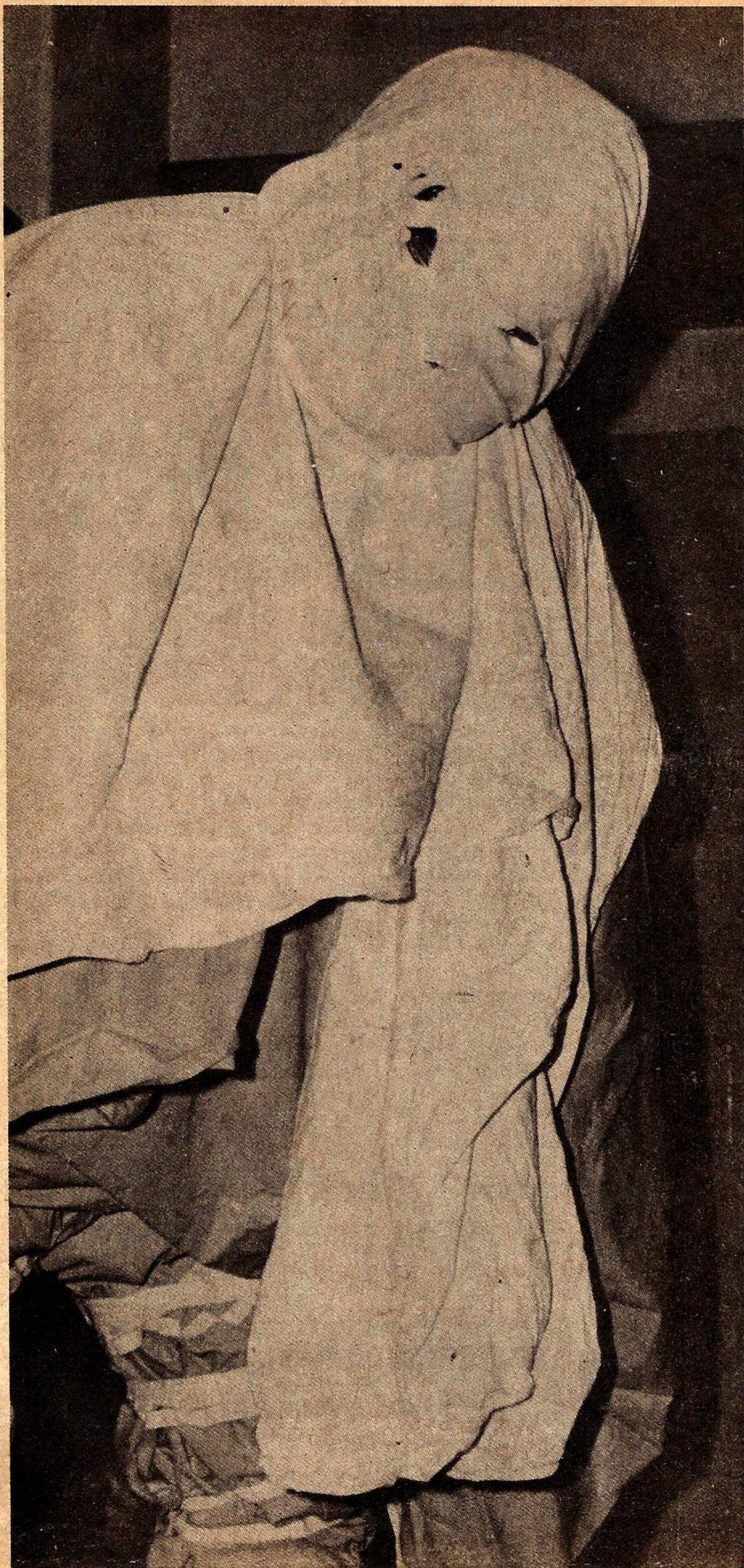
Dozens of wrestlers have tried to unmask Mr. Wrestling and failed. But where they've failed—we've succeeded!



MR. WRESTLING VOLUNTARILY UNMASKS!

"You know," Mr. Wrestling begins during an amiable chat, "a mask can be fun for awhile, but when talking to friends, it can be a handicap. I don't care if my friends know who I am." And with that, he takes off his mask to reveal—Tim Woods (right)! Tim permitted us to take this candid photo. Wrestlers (below) won't find it so easy to take off the mask of Mr. Wrestling!





The Masked Mystery Man makes a ghostly figure in the dressing room (left) but shows his sheet can ensnarl opponents (above).

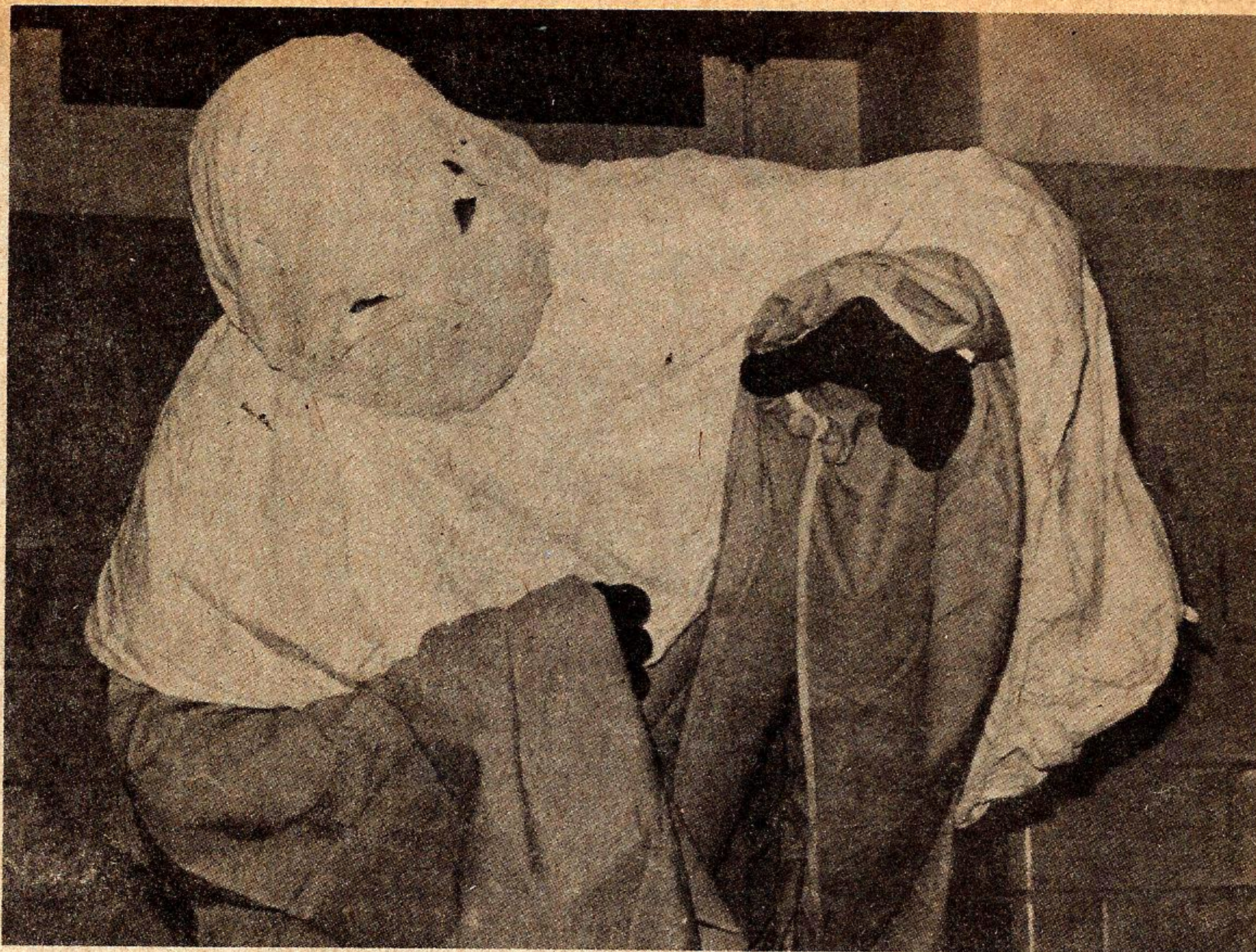
H E SEES THE world through two slits in his top sheet. And all the world can see of him are his eyes.

He calls himself "The Masked Mystery Man" but he's being modest. He's completely covered by sheets which are tied to allow him some freedom of movement. Still, the bulky wrapping does inhibit his movement. The man has purposely deprived himself of certain advantages. That is certainly a mystery.

It's fascinating to watch the man enter an arena. The fans do an astonished double-take as he struts down the aisle, resembling a Roman ghost more than a wrestler. Even with

WEIRD MYSTE ANE

An eerie figure to meet in the dressing room, the totally covered Masked Mystery Man will try to scare away anyone who approaches him. While attempting to drive away a photographer, he reveals even his hands are wrapped (right). Why he is like this remains an unsolved mystery.



his covering, however, there is no escaping the realization that he wrestles covered better than many men wrestle unencumbered.

Naturally, many rumors have sprung up to explain his strange appearance and account for his skill. Many people will tell you they have heard the story directly from the covered man himself. And each story will be different.

It's possible the Mysterious Masked Man has told conflicting stories to obscure his true origins. The only clear fact is his desire to cloak himself in as much mystery as possible. All we can do is guess, and print verbatim the story the Masked Mystery Man told us:

"Do you have any idea what kind of filthy, unsanitary people wrestling

fans are? An arena is just loaded with germs, which spread all kinds of disease. A wrestler, without any protection, risks getting all sorts of diseases. I'm sure many wrestlers have lost important matches when weakened by diseases contracted from the filthy fans.

"And think of those wrestlers who actually touch those fans. The germs have gone from the fans to the wrestlers! Do you seriously expect me to allow them to then touch my skin?! You've got to be kidding!"

The listener can almost feel a smug smile beaming from beneath the cowl. There is a real sense that the Masked Mystery Man feels he's put one over

on his audience. To believe any of the hundred stories that have sprung up about his origins would serve the wrestler's purpose of creating legends without any substantiation.

The most popular theory says the Masked Mystery Man was in a horrible accident. His body is covered with scarred, ugly flesh. The sight of him makes even strong men turn away in horror. The man has no choice but to cover himself.

We can only guess. Perhaps it isn't physical at all but psychological. He may even be running from the law.

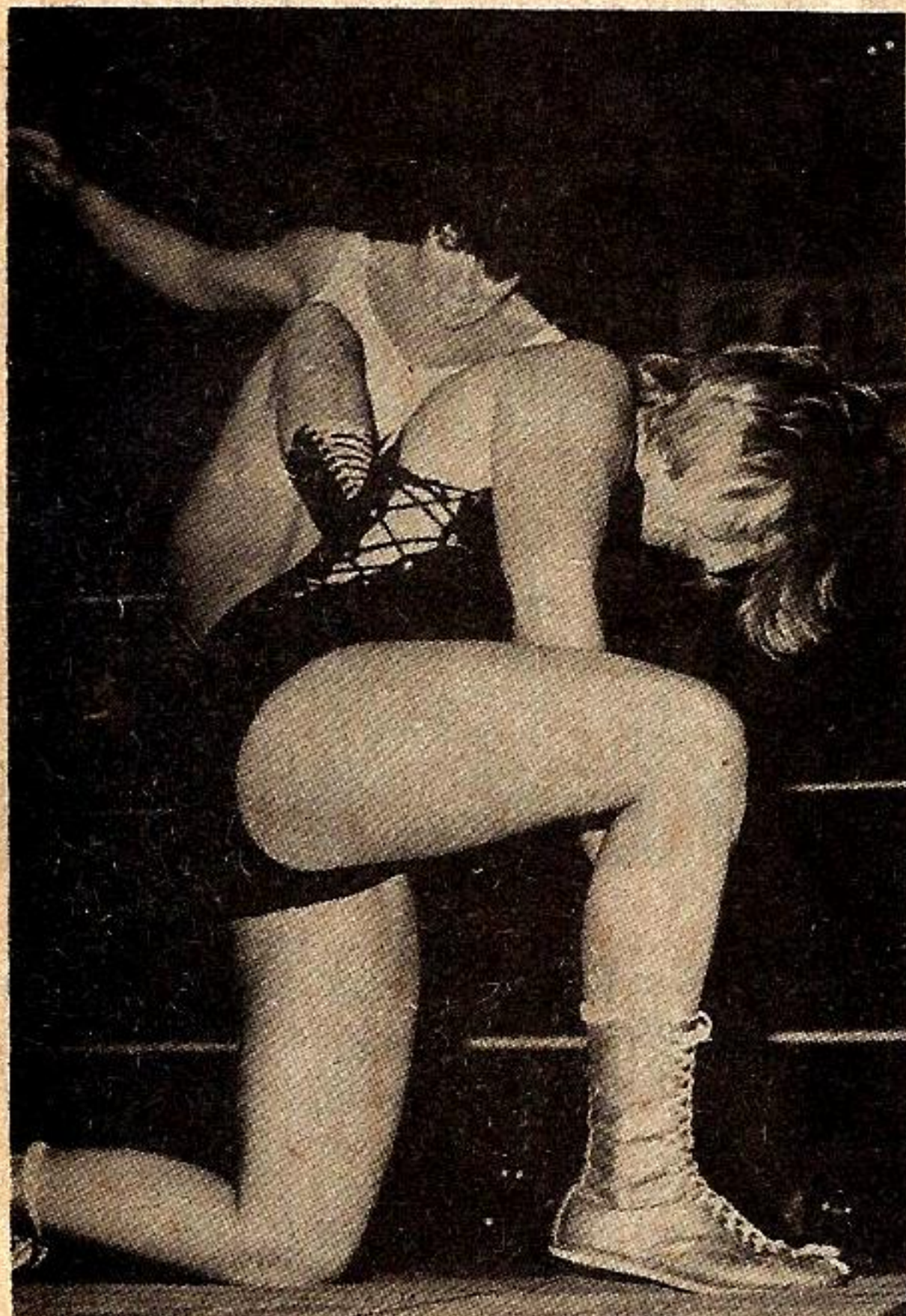
The only person who knows for sure is the Masked Mystery Man. And he's keeping the secret under wraps. □

Who is the Masked Mystery Man and why does he cover himself from head to toe? Nobody knows for sure—but everybody's guessing

RIOUS MASKED!

Photos By Theo Ehret
And Bill Beach

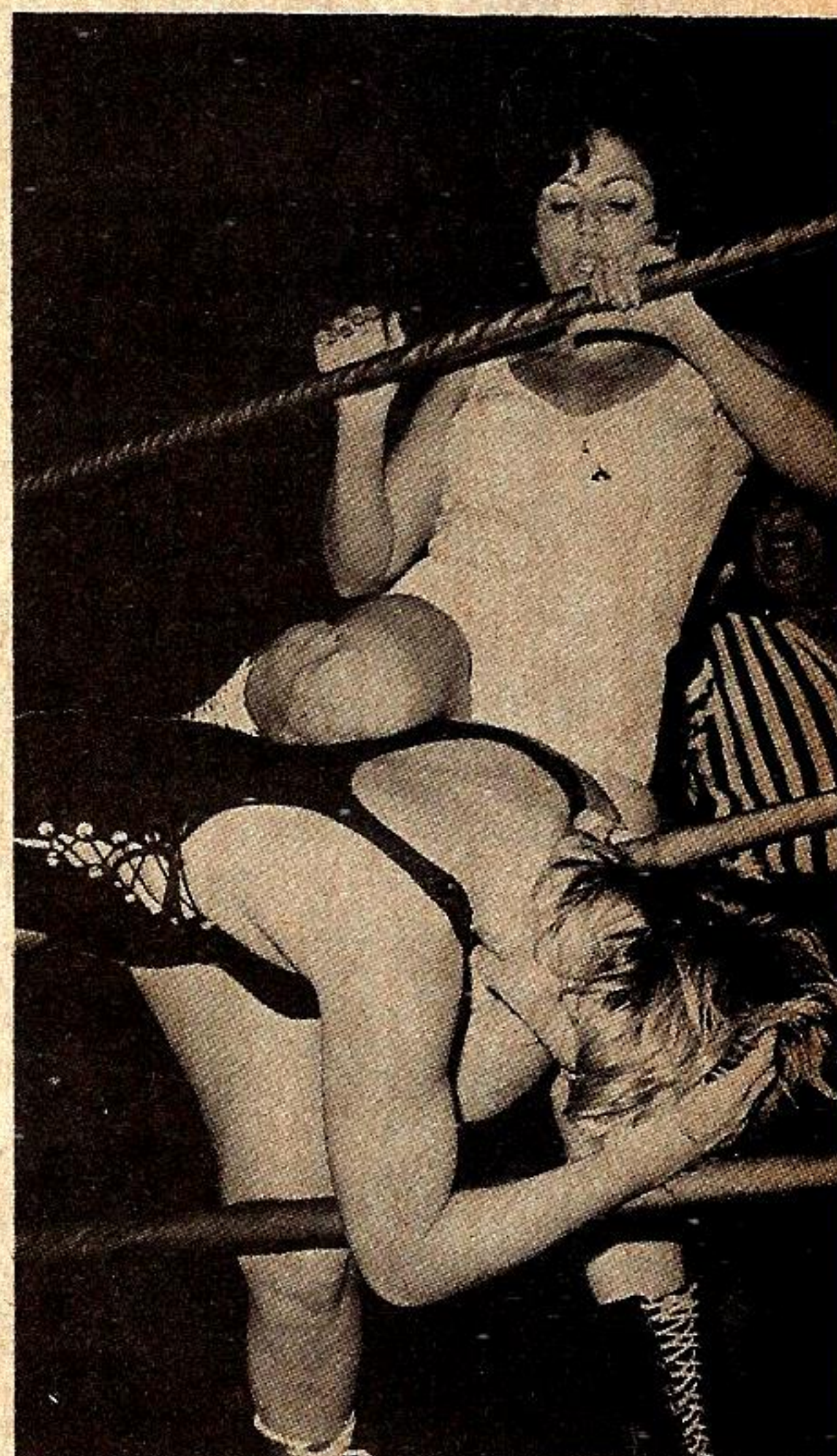
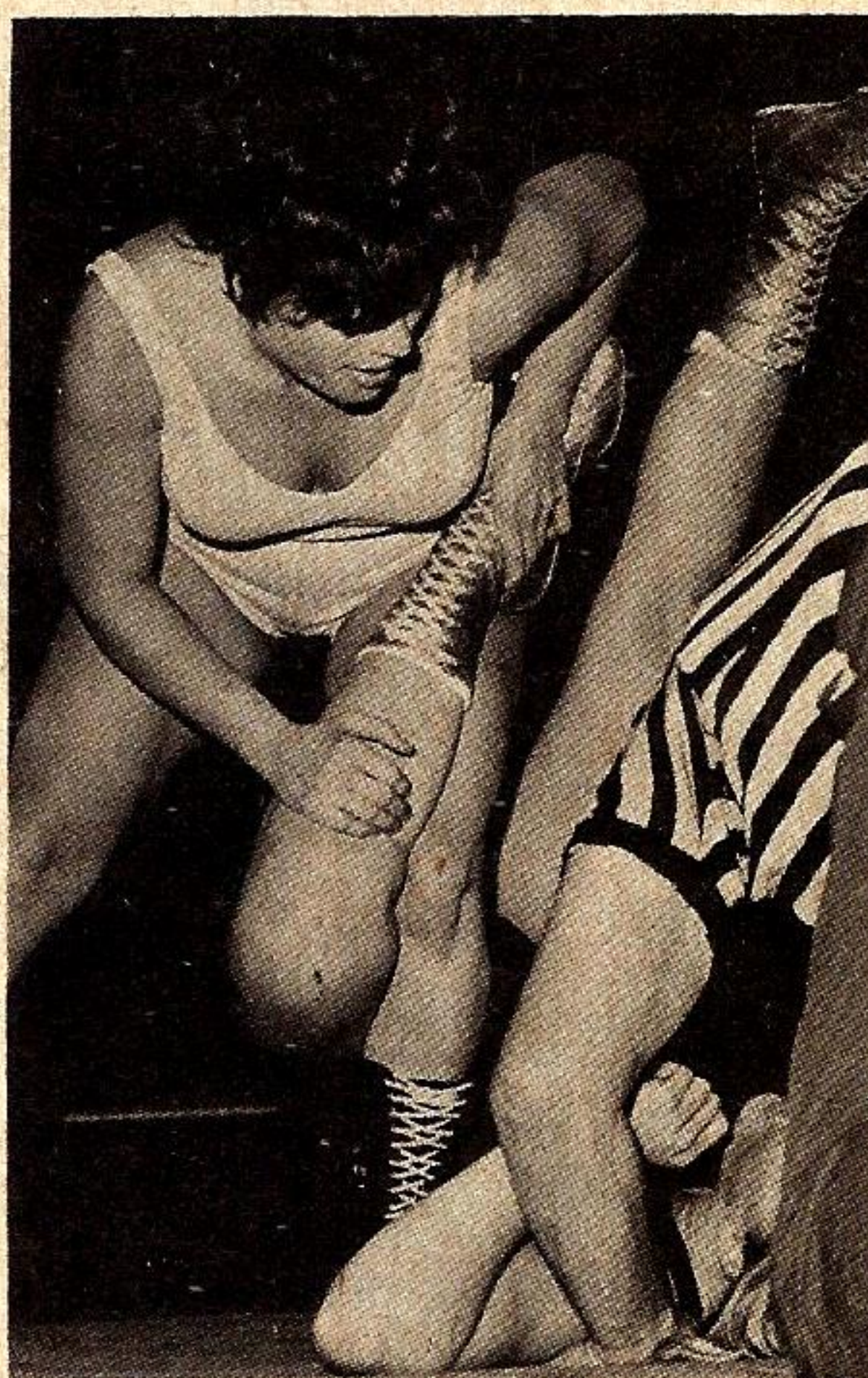
THE HARD LIFE OF A WOMAN WRESTLER



Betty Niccoli loves to wrestle against opponents like Vivian Vachon (above). It is at these times she considers herself the luckiest woman in the world. Yet, when she must return to her cold motel room (below), it seems a hard and lonely life.



Right: Betty sends Vivian out of the ring with a vicious kick to the stomach. Below: Betty traps Vivian in a stepover toe-hold, sending waves of agony through her victim's left leg.



when the match is over and she returns to her motel room, the price paid for being what she must be seems large indeed.

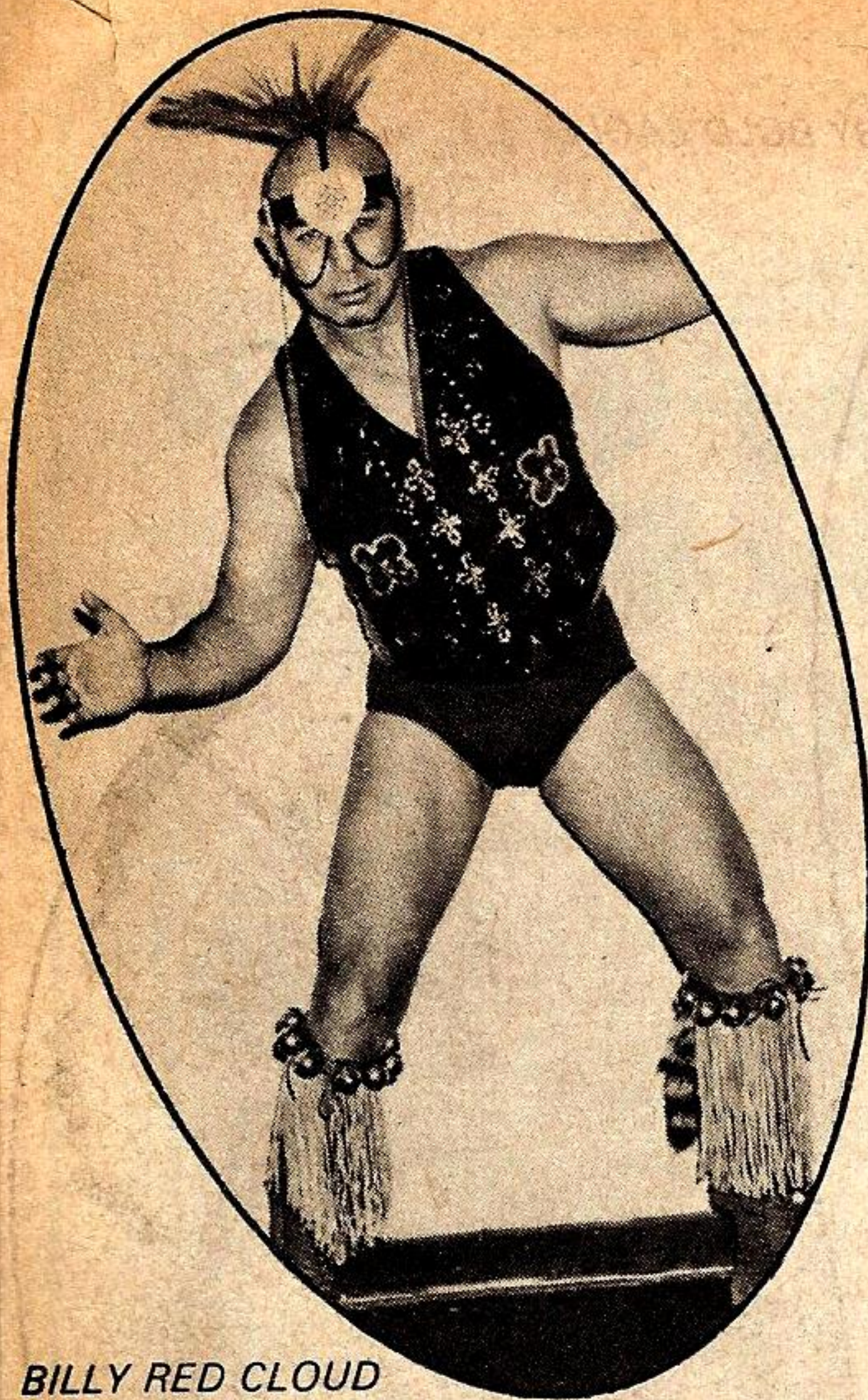
BETTY NICCOLI GAZED about her motel room and remarked, "You really have to love wrestling to be a professional wrestler. The sport certainly makes you prove your love by demanding constant sacrifices. And some nights, when they steal the victory from you, it sure doesn't seem worth it."

Betty is a veteran who is justifiably proud of her accomplishments. But

"You have no choice," Betty believes. "You're either a professional wrestler or not. It is some force inside that demands to be satisfied. I never consciously decided I'd spend my life going from arena to arena, motel room to motel room. It's just something I did naturally, never even considering there could be other choices, other ways of life. I think every professional wrestler has had the same experience."

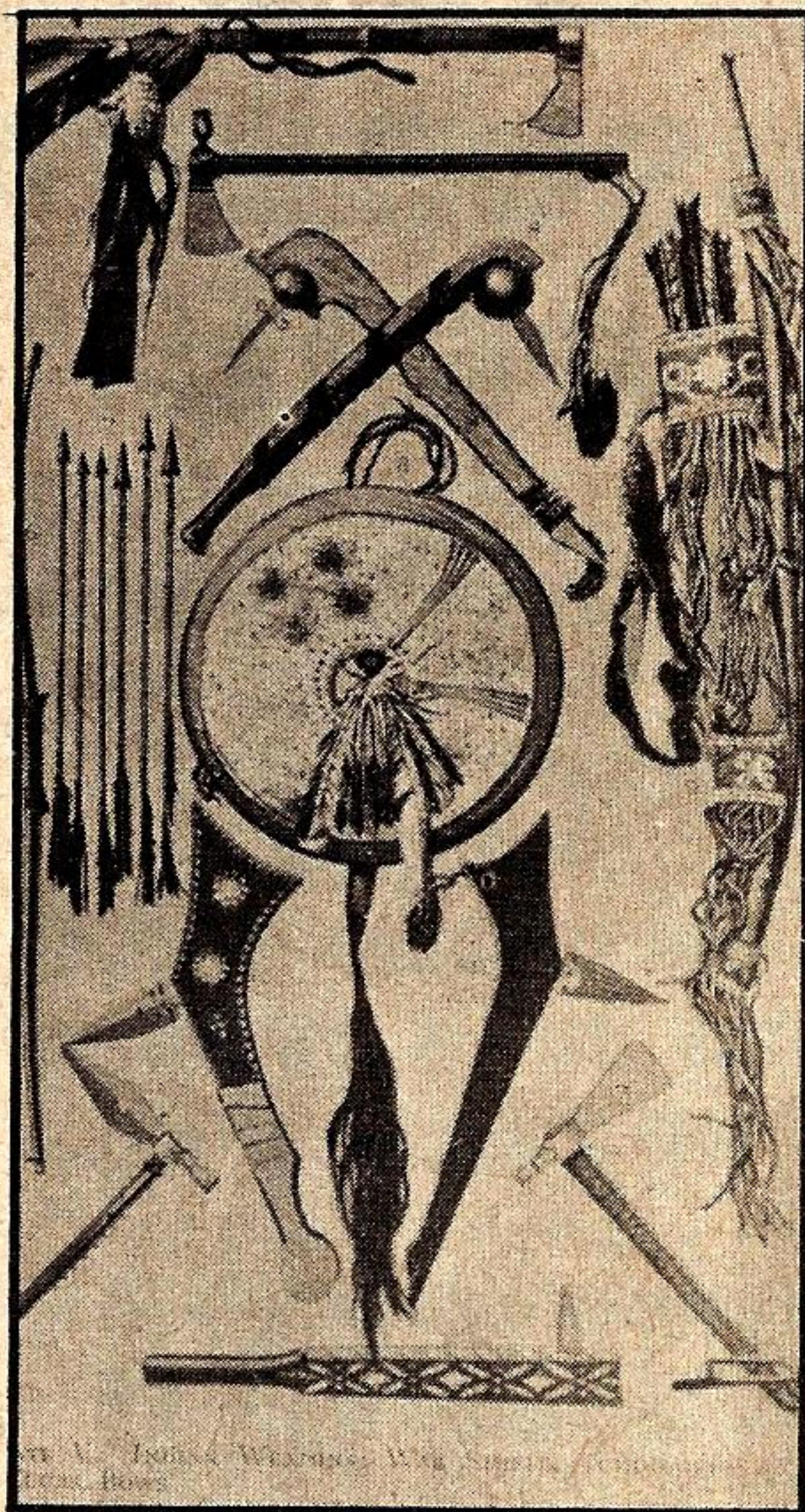
(Continued on page 50)

Like all professional wrestlers, Betty Niccoli has sacrificed a great deal to pursue a career in the sport she loves. Here, she reveals how she has learned to live with these sacrifices

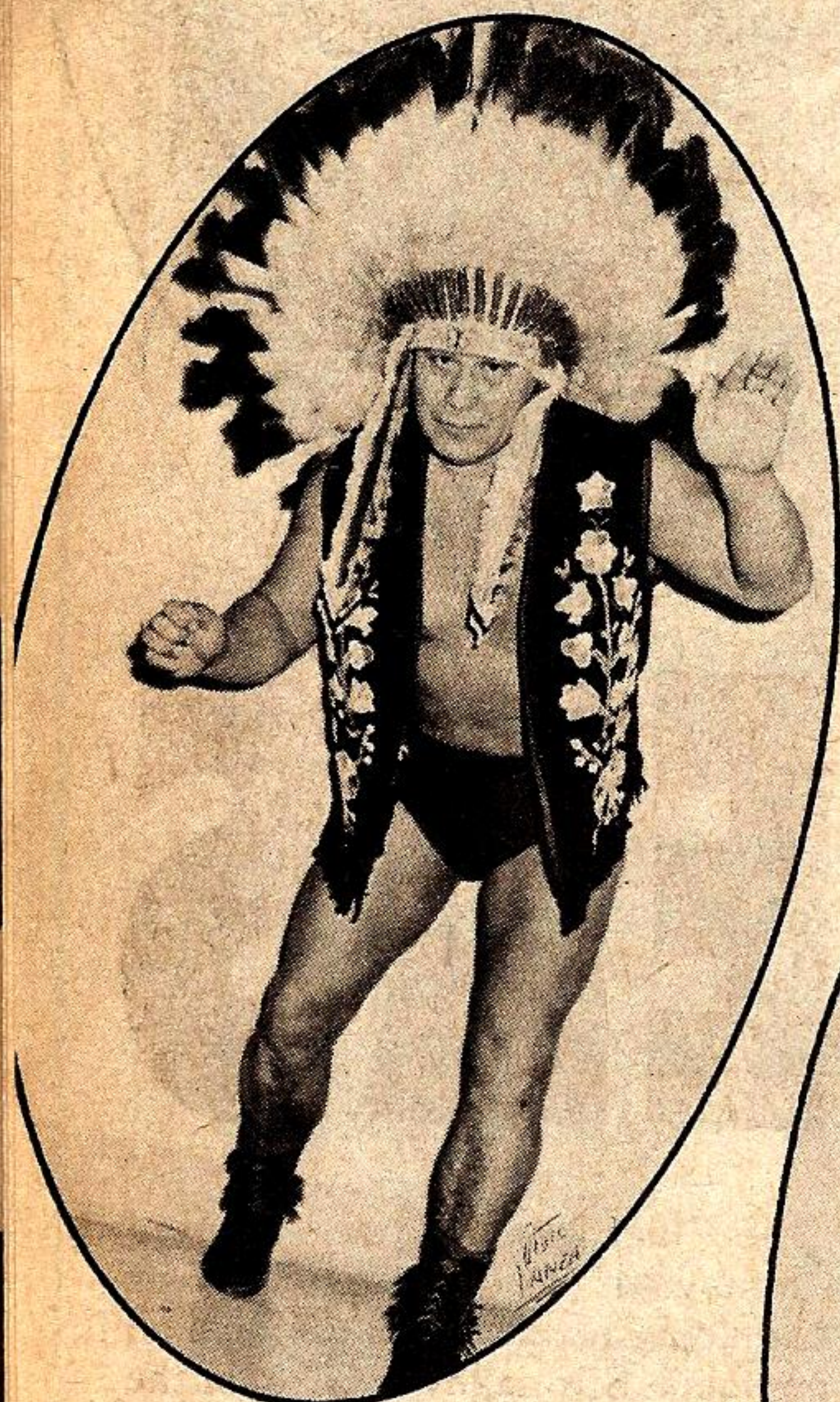


BILLY RED CLOUD

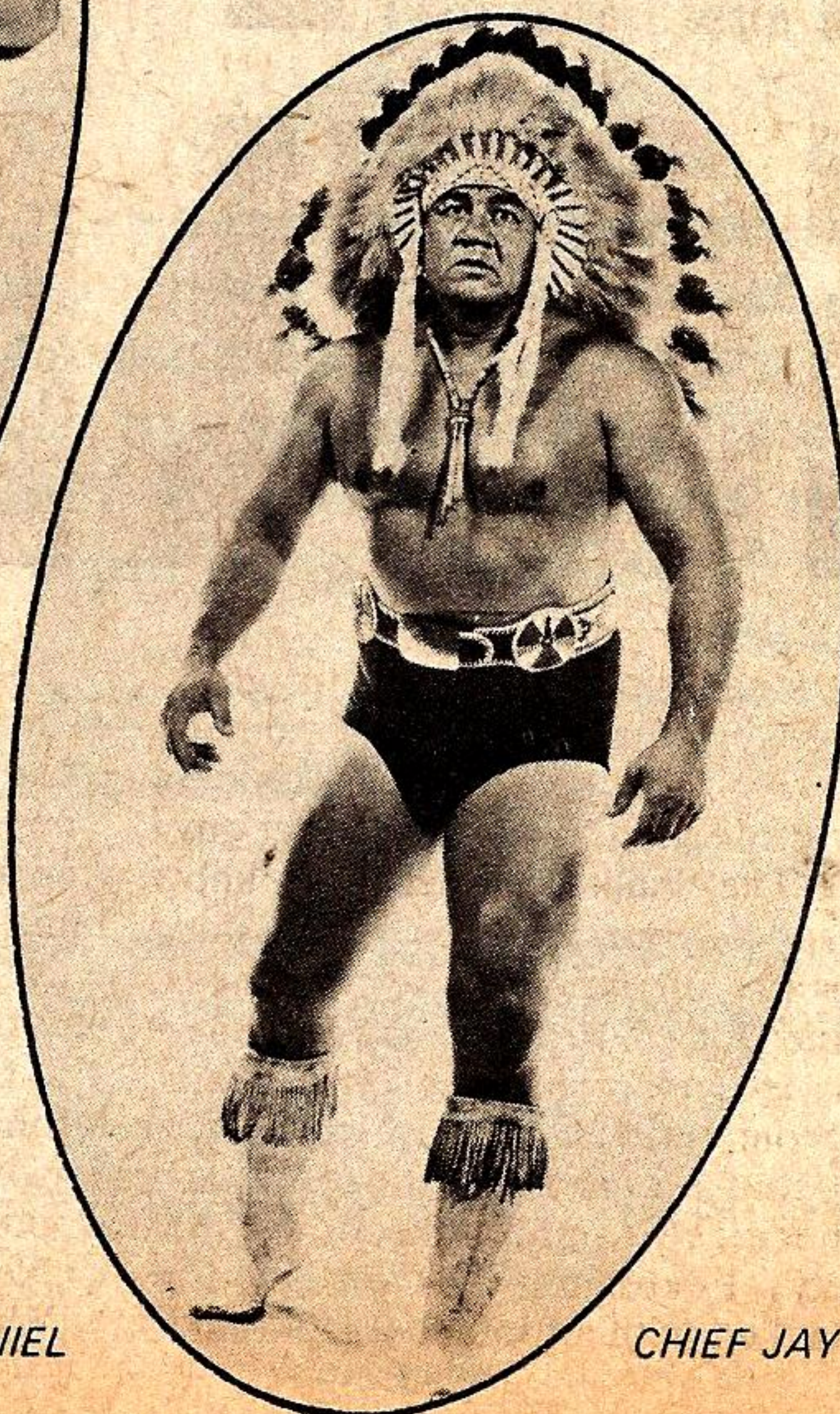
Indians have long been a major part of our sport. Yet few fans really know what makes them tick. To find out we took...



An Inside Look At...



BILLY TWO RIVERS



WAHOO MCDANIEL



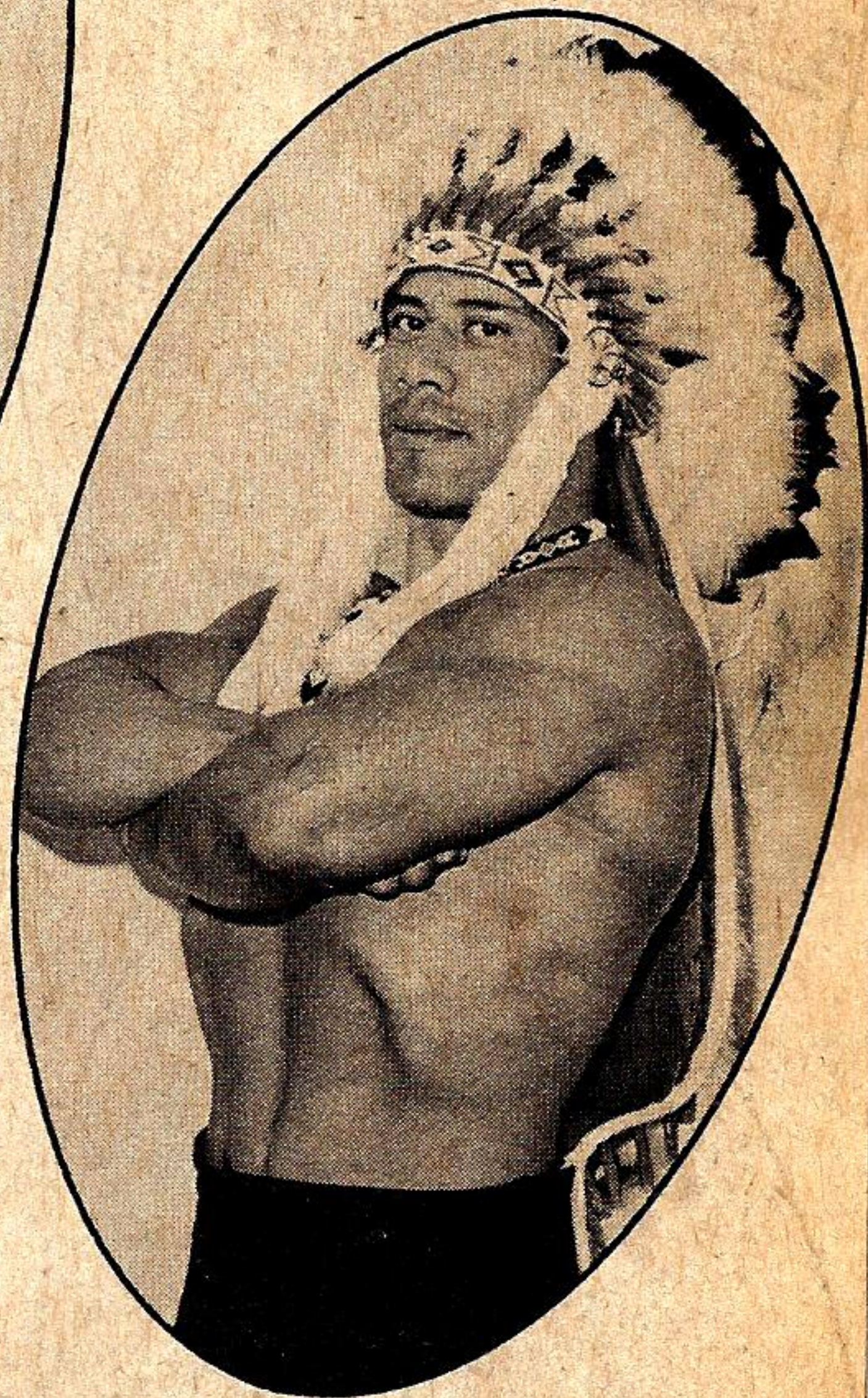
CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW



CHIEF WAR EAGLE



BOBBY BOLD EAGLE



SUNI WAR CLOUD

INDIAN WRESTLERS

PERHAPS THE MOST colorful and exciting ethnic group in wrestling are the Indians. With his colorful dress and exciting war dances, the Indian wrestler is always in demand.

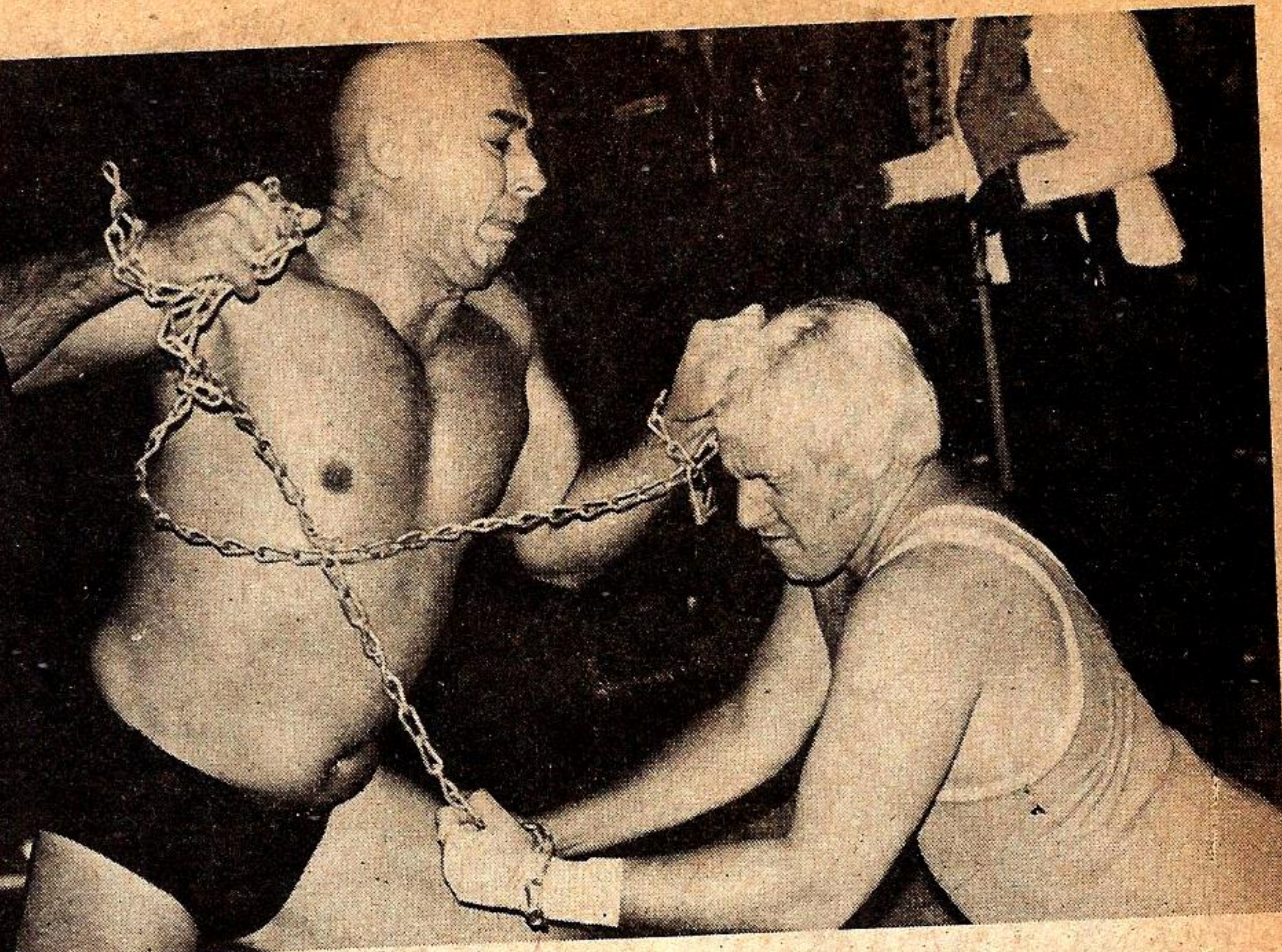
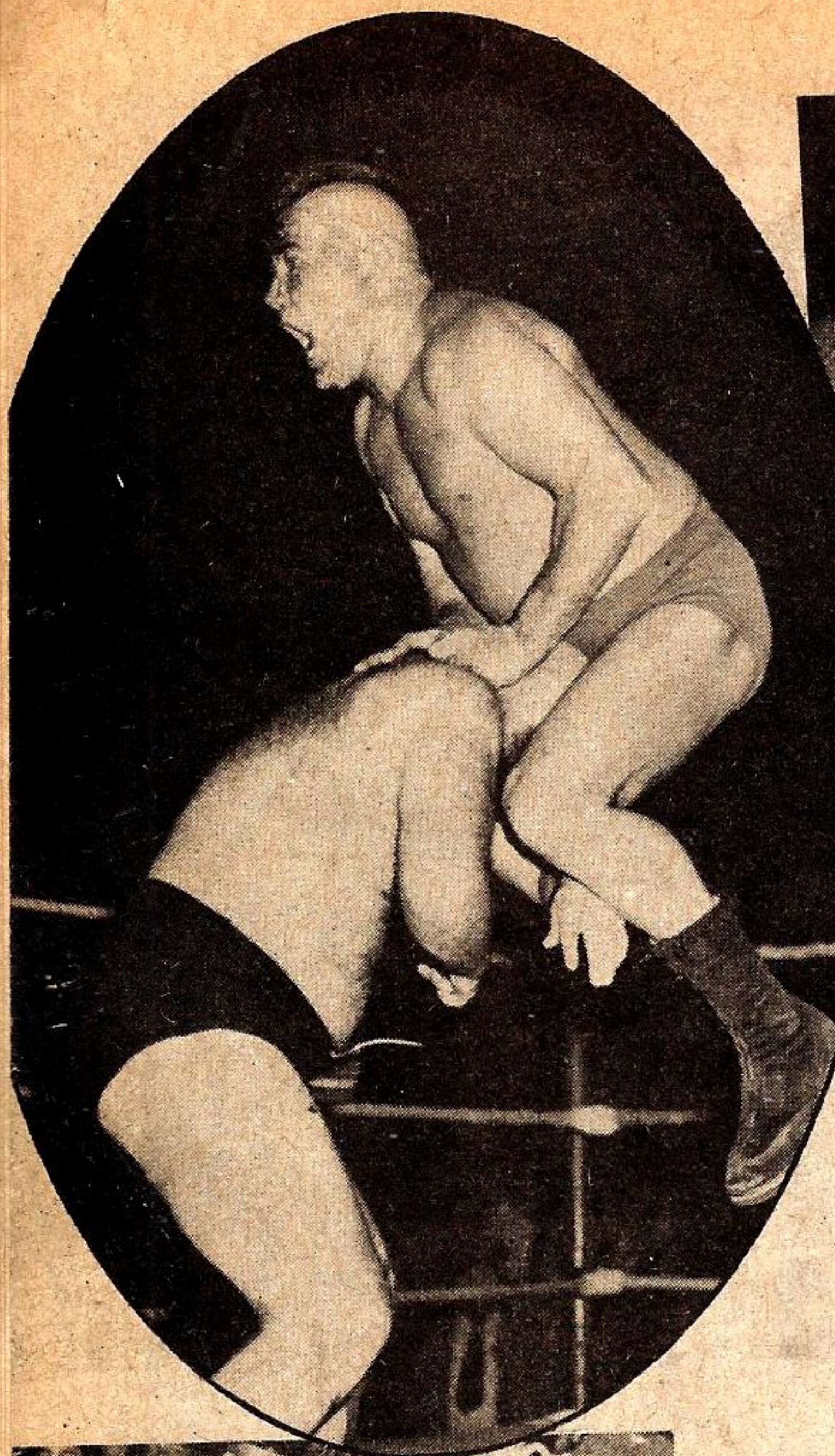
Probably the most well known Indian is Chief Jay Strongbow. Strongbow appears all over the country, and besides being an electrifying wrestler to watch, the Chief is a very controversial man. He claims to be a clean wrestler and yet many wrestlers and fans see him in a villainous light.

"I can see where they might," Strongbow has said. "I do come into the ring with a tomahawk. It's only for protection. You have to let guys like The Sheik or King Curtis know ahead of time that you won't stand for any of their monkey business. Nine out of 10 times my opponent has used a foreign object on me, causing me serious injury. I try not to let that happen any more. That's where the tomahawk comes into play. I won't use it unless I'm attacked with a foreign object first."

The Chief has also been accused of losing his cool too easily. For example in a recent match against The Sheik, Strongbow ran out of the ring and broke off the legs of a press table to use as a weapon against the wily Arab. Sheik hadn't been using any foreign object first.

"I admit," Strongbow stated, "sometimes I do lose my head. But I just can't help it. I'm afraid my opponent will get the jump on me and make me a bloody mess."

Wahoo McDaniel, a close friend



Chief War Eagle explodes and pulverizes Mad Dog Vachon with a double knee lift (left). War Eagle is getting revenge for his pal Billy Two Rivers, who was injured by Vachon in a sneak attack. Billy Red Cloud (above) smashes a chain into Bobby Heenan's skull. Billy doesn't hide the fact he hates Heenan and his gang.



Controversial Chief Strongbow jabs a spectator's cane into George "The Animal" Steele's chest. He went beserk after Steele hit him with a chair.

of Jay's, has the same problem. He's been disqualified more than any other Indian wrestler on record. At one time the popular McDaniel admitted, "I'm my own worst enemy."

When Wahoo blows his cool he'll strike anything in his way and that includes referees and sometimes fans.

"The fans and the people who see me go on the rampage might understand it better if they were wrestlers. They should realize certain guys in the business are out to wipe some of us out because of personal reasons. If you try to wrestle these guys decently they'll devour you with all sorts of filthy tactics. You've got to fight fire with fire."

Wahoo's opponents can easily tell when he's riled up. He goes into a sacred war dance that unleashes his fury.

"When I do my war dance I don't know what's going on around me," he admitted. "Everything seems to go blank and I hit anything in sight. I admit it has gotten me into trouble, but then again it has gotten me out of a lot of tough spots."

Wahoo and Chief Jay Strongbow

have spoken about teaming up recently. Could it be a mistake since they're both so short-tempered?

"Possibly," Wahoo said. "That's why we haven't teamed yet. We're afraid we might be the most disqualified good guy team ever and we're not sure we want to earn that title."

Even if they do team up they'll be in contention with another tag team that's constantly on the war-path—Billy Red Cloud and Bobby Bold Eagle. They've been teaming for several years and both of them are also quite short-tempered.

"I think Bold Eagle is a lot more short-tempered than I am," Red Cloud stressed. "Sometimes I've got to keep him outside during a tag team match and handle it myself because I'm afraid he'll get us disqualified."

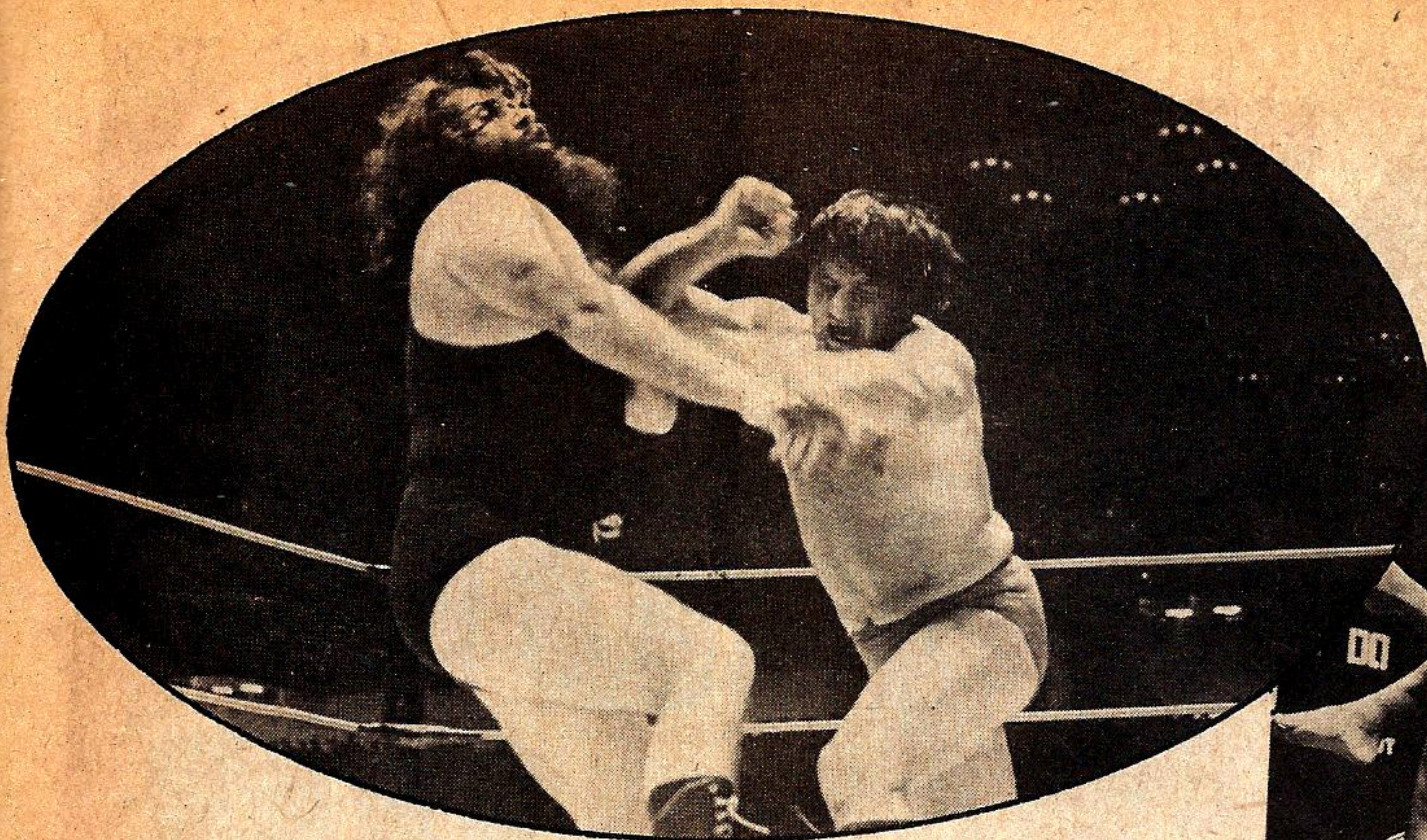
Bold Eagle has a good reason for being short-tempered.

"When I first started out in this business I never blew up," he said. "Then guys started taking advantage of my good nature and I was losing a lot of matches. Finally, after I met Red Cloud, I changed. It was Red Cloud who changed me."

"Yes," Red Cloud added, "but he did go a little overboard. I taught him to dish it out mildly and he went too far. He's gotten us disqualified many times. I hope he'll learn to control his temper with experience."

One of the things all Indians hate are people who are prejudiced against them because they're Indians.

"There are many wrestlers who would love to cripple or even kill us,"



Barefoot Suni War Cloud locks Bengali into a perfectly-executed flying head scissors. Suni War Cloud is a Yaqui Indian.

Red Cloud said, "just because they hold some sort of grudge against Indians. I don't think that's right and I usually refuse to wrestle them. Why? They're making money wrestling me. I don't want them to earn a cent if they've got that kind of attitude."

Chief Suni War Cloud, a Yaqui Indian, doesn't share Red Cloud's views.

"If you get a guy who's prejudiced and teach him a good lesson he'll wind up respecting you," he explained. "The worst thing in the world is to make an opponent think you're scared of him. That way he's losing more respect for you."

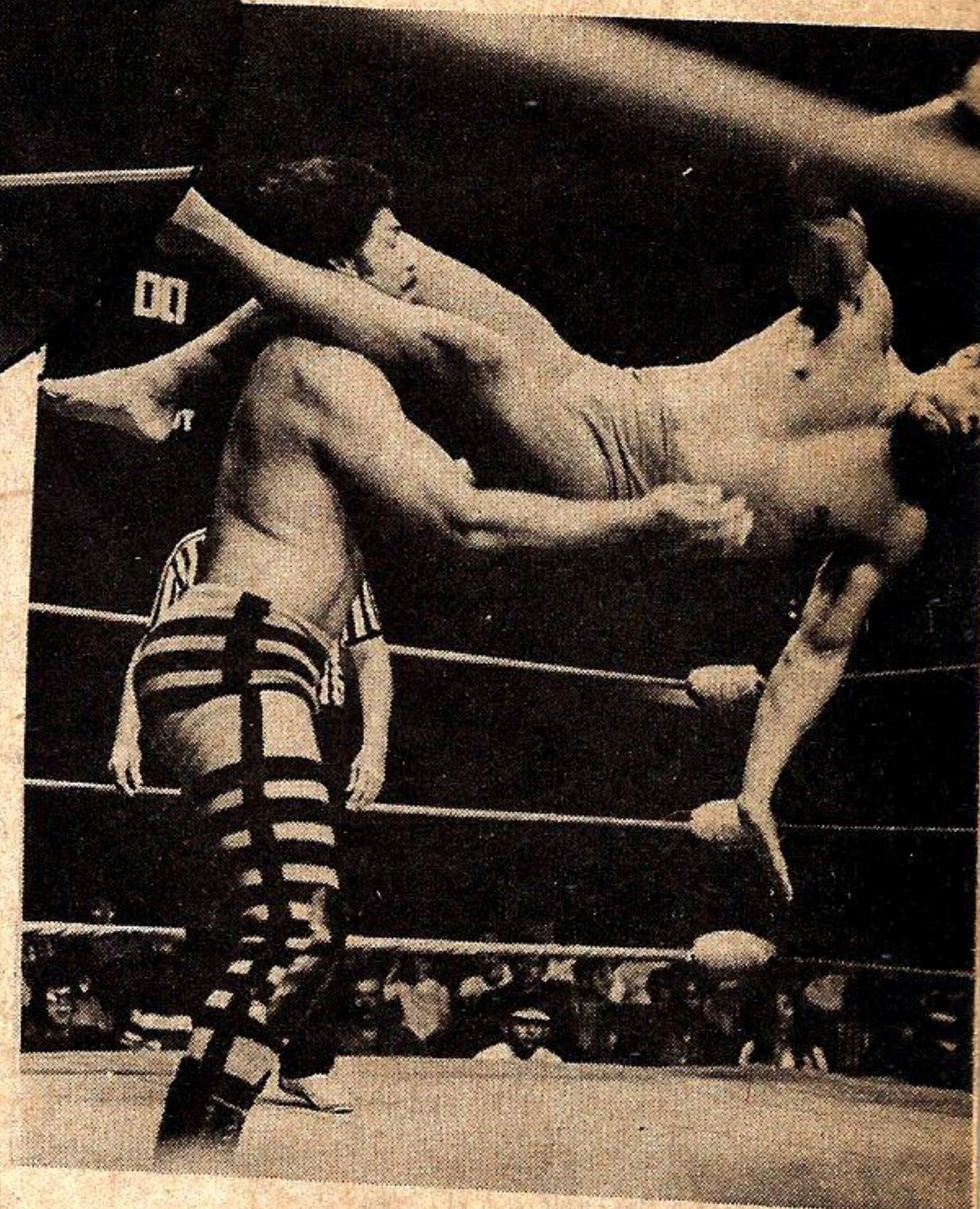
Suni has a milder temper than Strongbow, McDaniel, Red Cloud or Bold Eagle. Aside from that, he also differs in his style. He wrestles barefoot.

"Shoes and moccasins limit my footwork," he explained. "I feel a lot more agile without being weighed down on my feet. It may sound crazy but it really works."

In reference to tag team matches, Suni prefers single bouts.

"I guess I just don't enjoy team effort," he explained. "I like trying and winning for myself. There's more joy in it. If you lose you suffer alone. There's nobody to sit next to you and try to blame you for a team loss. I've had too many bad experiences in tag team matches. You meet a lot of partners you can't depend on and then you wind up wrestling two guys at the same time. The only partners I really ever enjoy teaming with are

The uncontrollable temper of Bobby Bold Eagle (above) is quite evident as he smashes The Wildman. Bobby has to be very wary of disqualifications.



Mil Mascaras and Ricky Romero. I'd team with them on any occasion."

Suni, like many Indian wrestlers, hasn't gotten a shot at any world title yet.

"I don't know what it is," Suni explained, "but all the Indian population in wrestling can't seem to get a title shot. Some of us don't even get regional title shots."

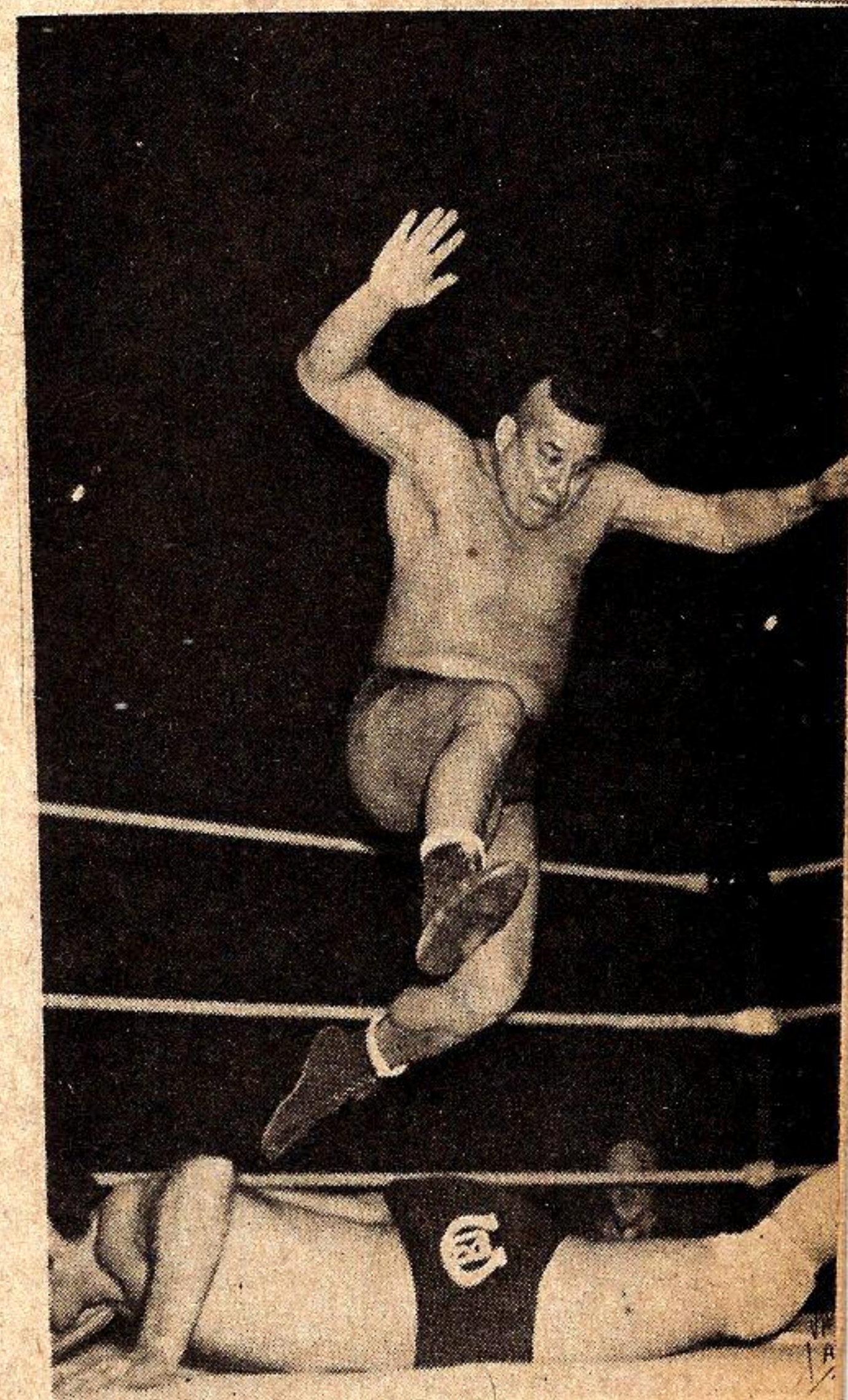
Chief White Owl has been trying for a regional title shot for almost two years!

"The National Wrestling Federation rates me in the top 10," White Owl explained, "but whenever my turn comes up for a title shot, the champion is always busy in another town and I'm booked elsewhere. I'm sure there's no prejudice involved but I wish one of us Indians could win a title. Our people would really be happy."

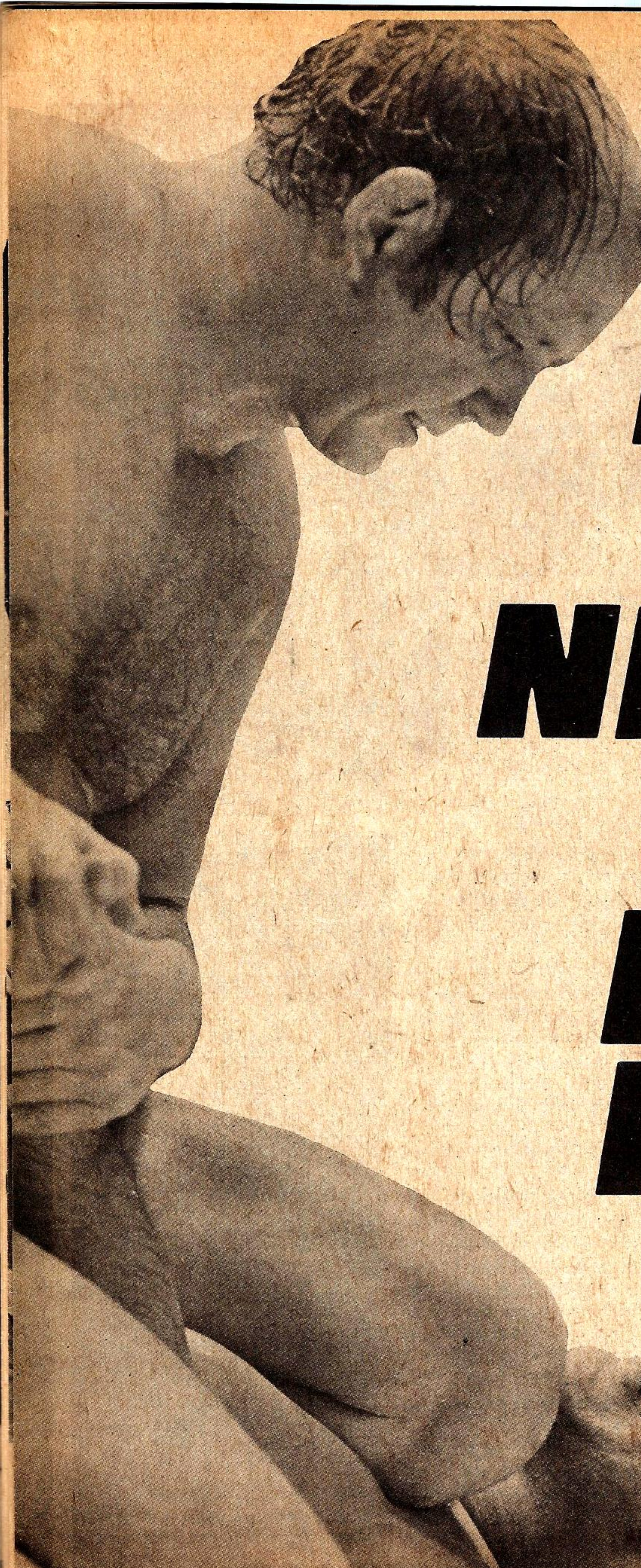
Even though he doesn't get a title shot, he's content to stay in the N.W.F. areas.

"It's because of the fans," he said. "They're so wonderful to me. I've wrestled all over the world but no fans—anywhere—compare with N.W.F. area fans. They're the greatest!"

(Continued on page 44)



Blackjack Lanza ducks for cover as Billy Two Rivers goes into his war dance. His dance is somethin' else.



**NOW
OR
NEVER
FOR
DORY
FUNK
JR!**

IS IT UNREALISTIC to expect that Dory Funk Jr. will ever regain the N.W.A. title?

A year ago, even six months ago, nobody would have even asked this question. It was assumed Dory was the leading contender for Jack Brisco's title.

Now, in the last few months, people are beginning to express doubts over whether Dory will ever again wear the belt around his waist.

A friend of Dory's, who wishes to remain anonymous for fear of what he says, coming from someone so close to Dory, would hurt his friend's feelings, opines, "There's a certain championship rhythm which the champion and true contenders have. You can see it in the way they walk, the way they wrestle, the way they think. The ambition to become champion drives them in a special way. It's hard to describe but it's unmistakable when you see it.

"Dory is losing that rhythm. Maybe it's a temporary thing. Maybe all champions go through this after they lose the belt and before they regain it. I've never been this close to an ex-champ before, so I can't say for sure.

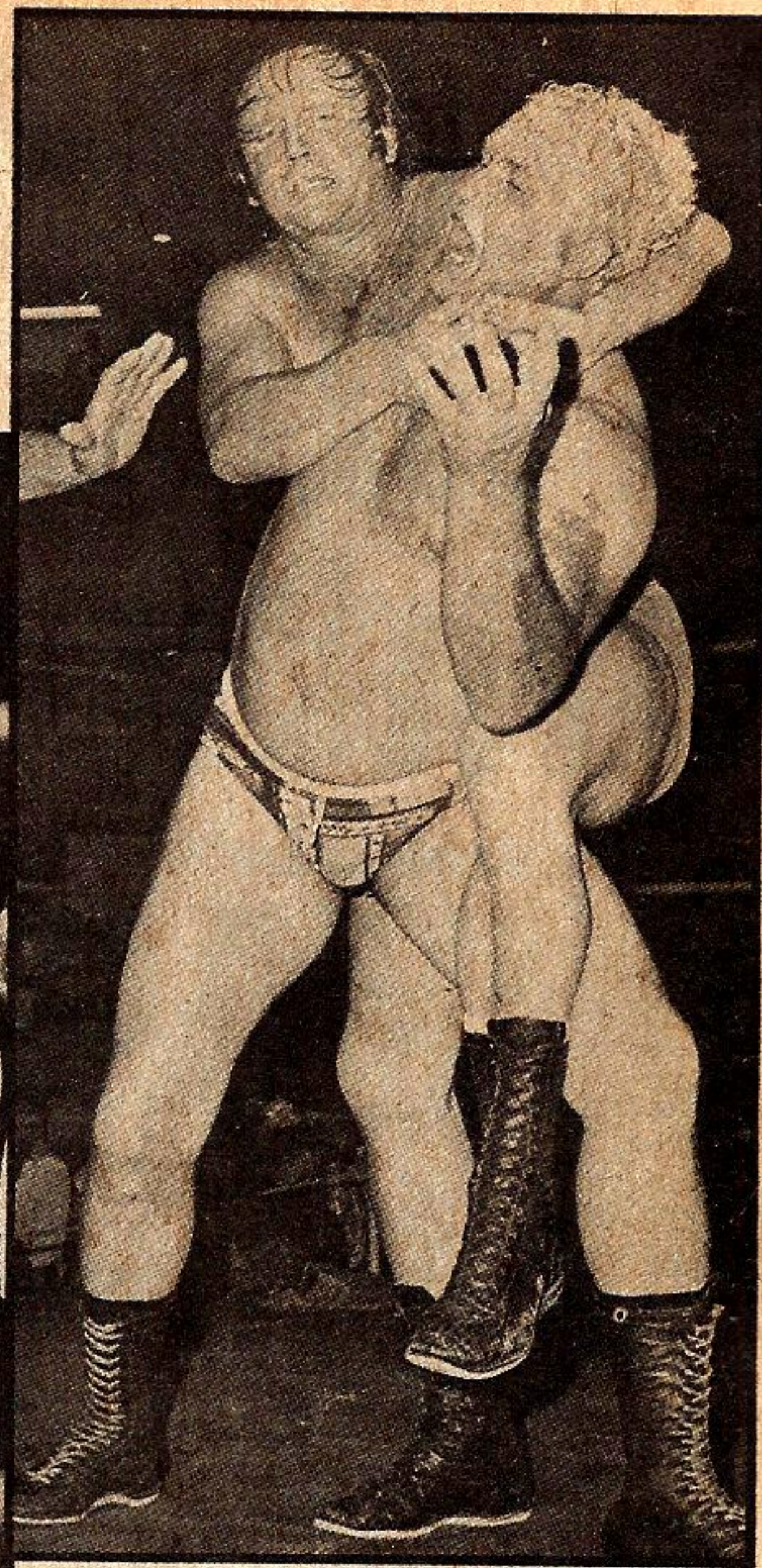
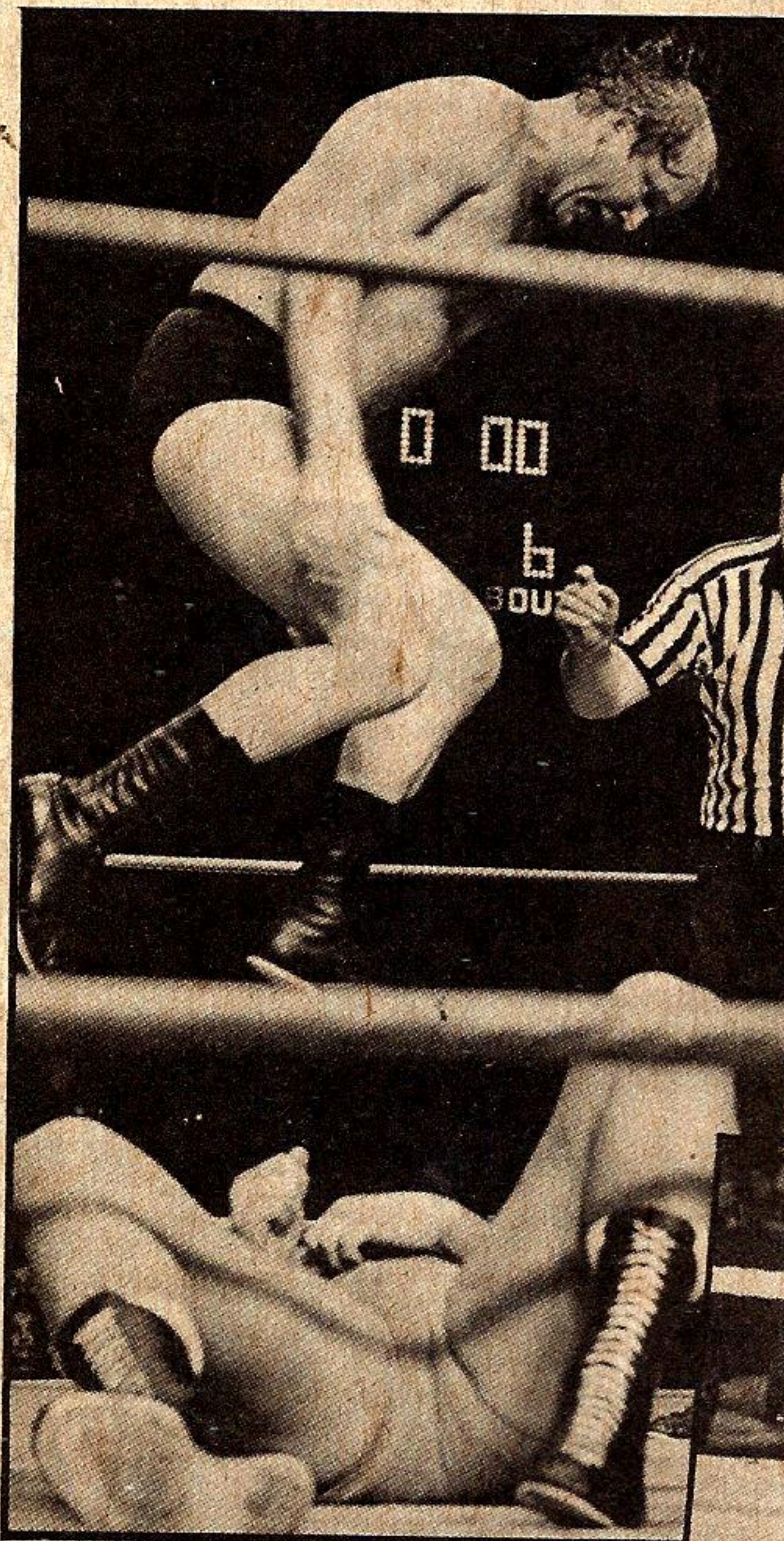
"What I can say for sure is if he continues to lose this rhythm, he'll never come back to be champion. I'll be watching Dory very closely for the next few months. The way Dory wrestles in the near future will determine whether he's a future champion...or an ex-champion."

Everyone agrees Dory has the physical gifts to be champion. What is questionable is the Dory Funk, Jr. determination and confidence.

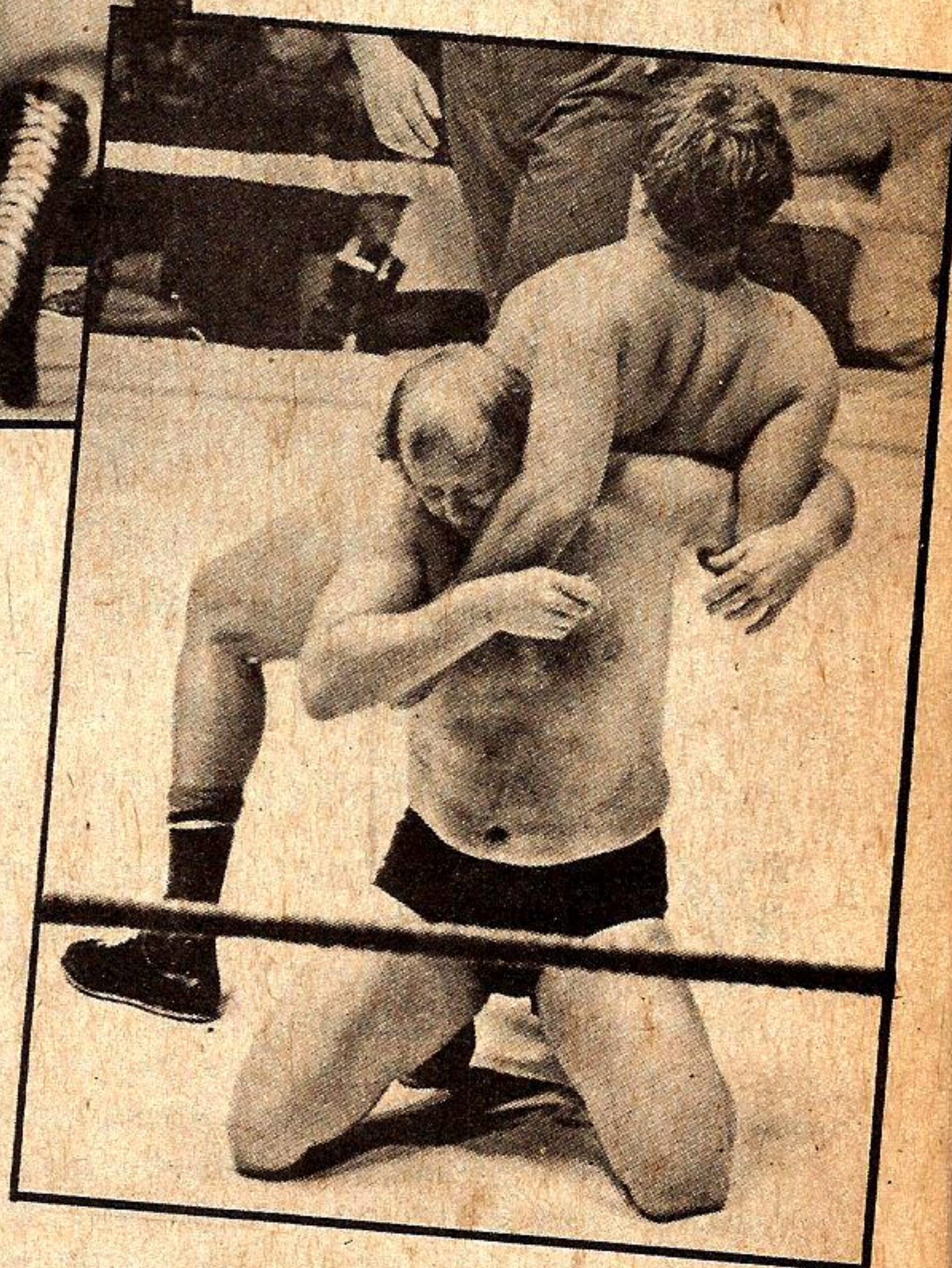
Verne Gagne, who has lost and regained the A.W.A. championship, describes the period between holding the title as "a time when you don't know if your career is finished. The first time I lost the title

(Continued on page 52)

Dory Funk, Jr. traps Harley Race in an abdominal stretch (right). Since Dory lost his championship title to Harley, many feel Dory has also lost, or is losing, the ambition which makes a man want to be a champion. Harley may have taken away more than a belt when he took the title away.

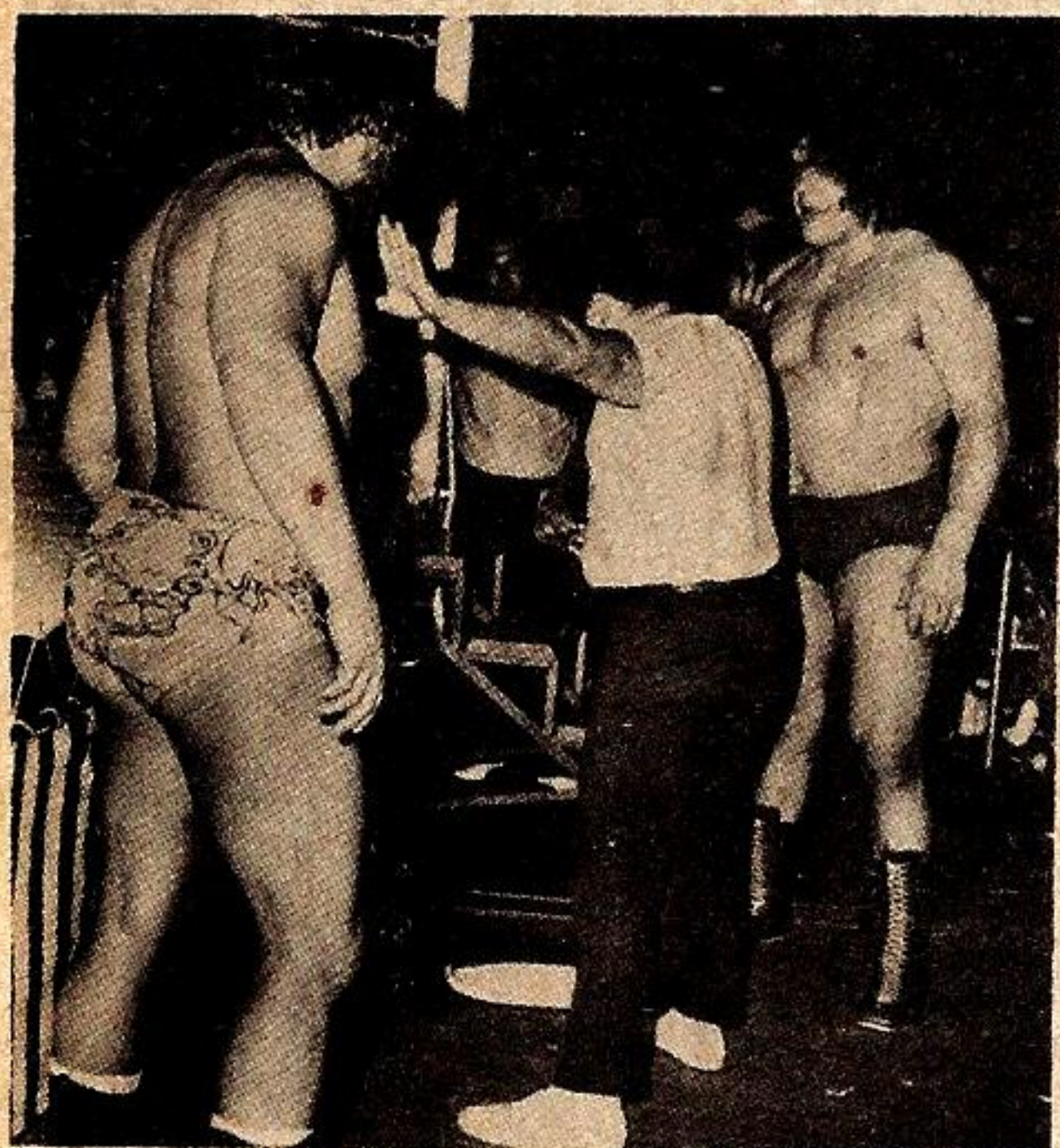


Above: Dory leaps high in the air to come crashing down on Sakaguchi, a man who will swear Dory has lost none of his desire or ability. Right: Dory tries to maneuver Bob Orton into position for a pin. Bob has stated that the only person standing in the way of Dory getting back his title is Dory Funk Jr. himself, not a more talented wrestler.



The next few months will determine whether or not Dory Funk Jr. can ever be champion again. It is the most critical time of his career

TRAPPED BETWEEN TWO RAGING GIANTS— ANDRE AND JONATHAN!



Courageously, the referee makes the raging Andre and Don Leo go back into the ring, risking his own life to maintain order.

THE STORY OF A COURAGEOUS REFEREE!

PHOTOS BY BILL BEACH

Paul Bruce wrote us about one of the most courageous acts ever in a wrestling arena—and it was by a referee! We were unable to discover the referee's name, but we salute him as an outstanding representative of his maligned fraternity

WE ARE CONSTANTLY deluged by letters insulting and damning wrestling referees. That is why this letter from an Amarillo, Texas fan was such a pleasant surprise.

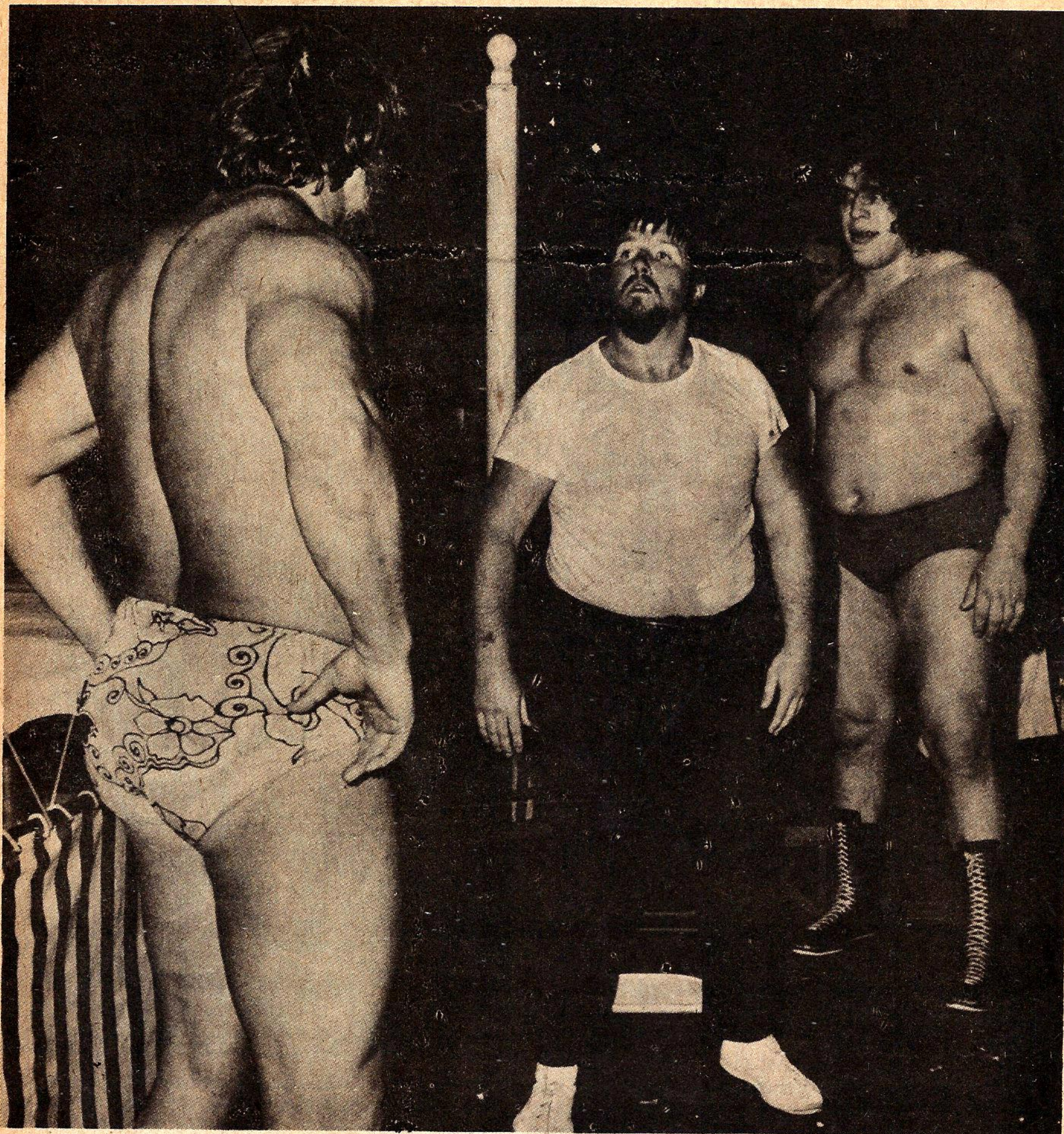
"Last night I saw one of the most remarkable exhibitions of bravery ever witnessed in a wrestling arena. The man who displayed this incredible raw courage was a referee who literally risked his life to maintain order during a brutal battle between Andre the Giant and Don Leo Jonathan, old and bitter enemies.

"When those two started going at it, there wasn't a safe place in the arena! The state of Texas almost wasn't big enough to contain them. A normal person

would have run for cover and let the two of them kill each other. However, the referee must have felt he had a job to do and he was going to do it, no matter what the difficulty.

"As soon as Jonathan walked into the arena, it was obvious something was up. With him was his new manager, Brother Fred Major. Brother Fred pretends to be pious but his beady eyes, searching the area for things to hand Jonathan during the match, betrayed his true intentions.

"I wouldn't have let Brother Fred into town, much less permit him to stand at ringside. However, the referee realized there was no rule against Fred's presence and let him remain, even though he knew it



would make his job that much harder. Besides being courageous, the referee had a great deal of integrity!

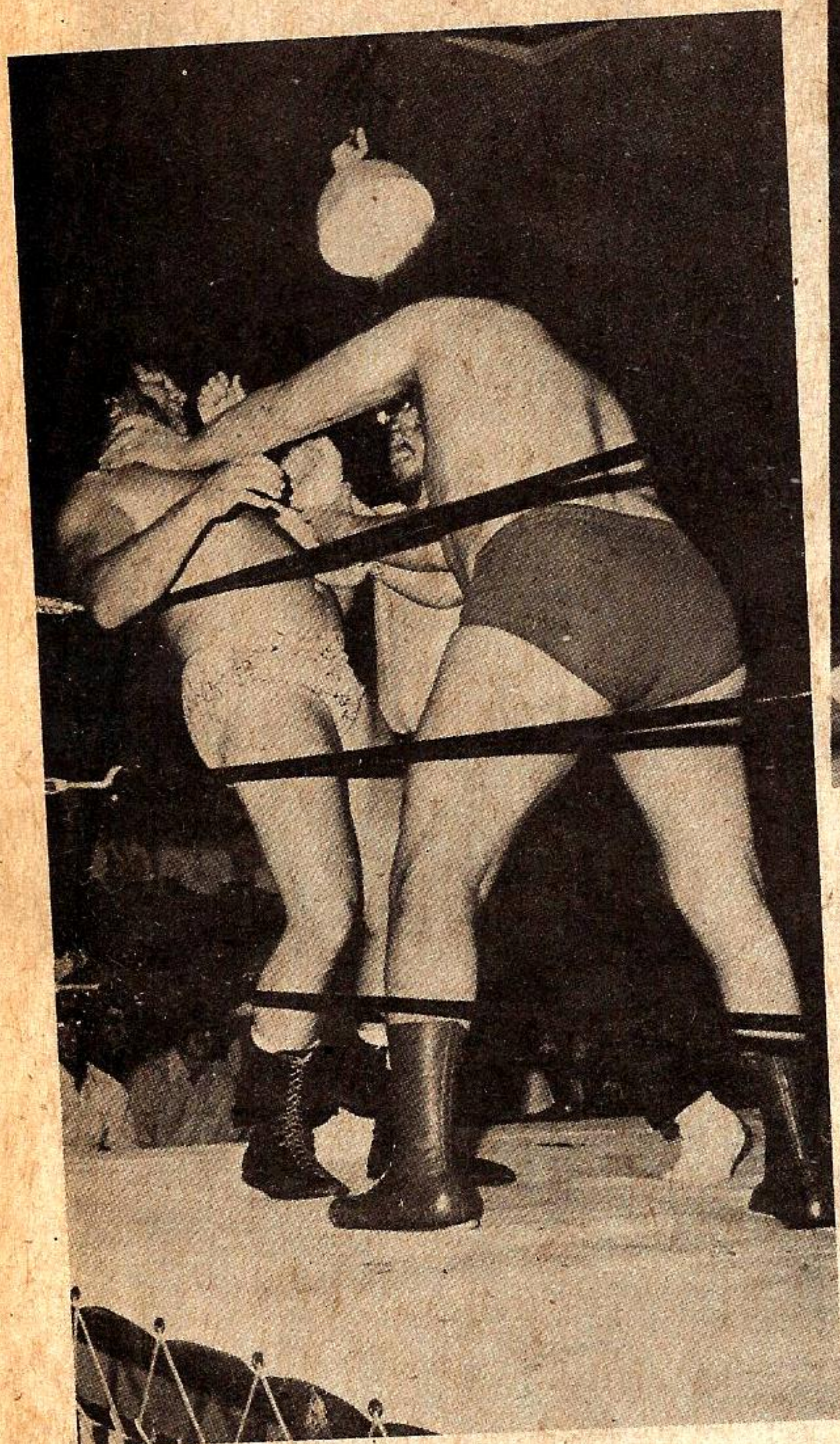
"When Andre climbed through the ropes, the two men stared at each other. Their hatred electrified the fans. The two men stood at each corner. Between them, representing the rules and regulations which make wrestling a great sport, stood the referee. He was an island of sanity in a match about to get mad.

"The action was fast, furious, and brutal from the instant the bell rang. The two gargantuan grapplers went after each other with the speed of leopards and the fury of tigers. Never has either man had to use so much leverage or been forced off his feet so many times. The two men traded armlocks,

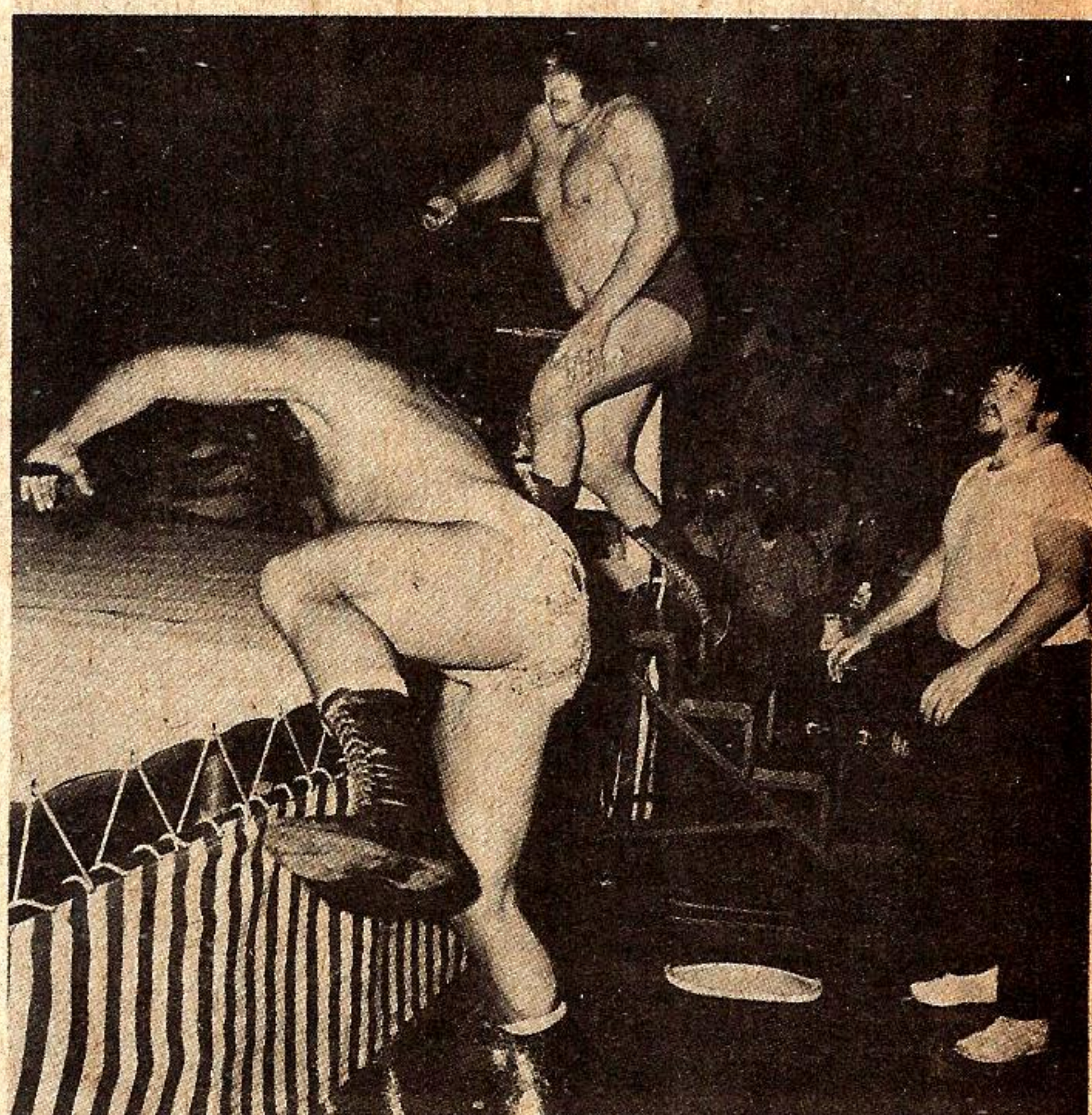
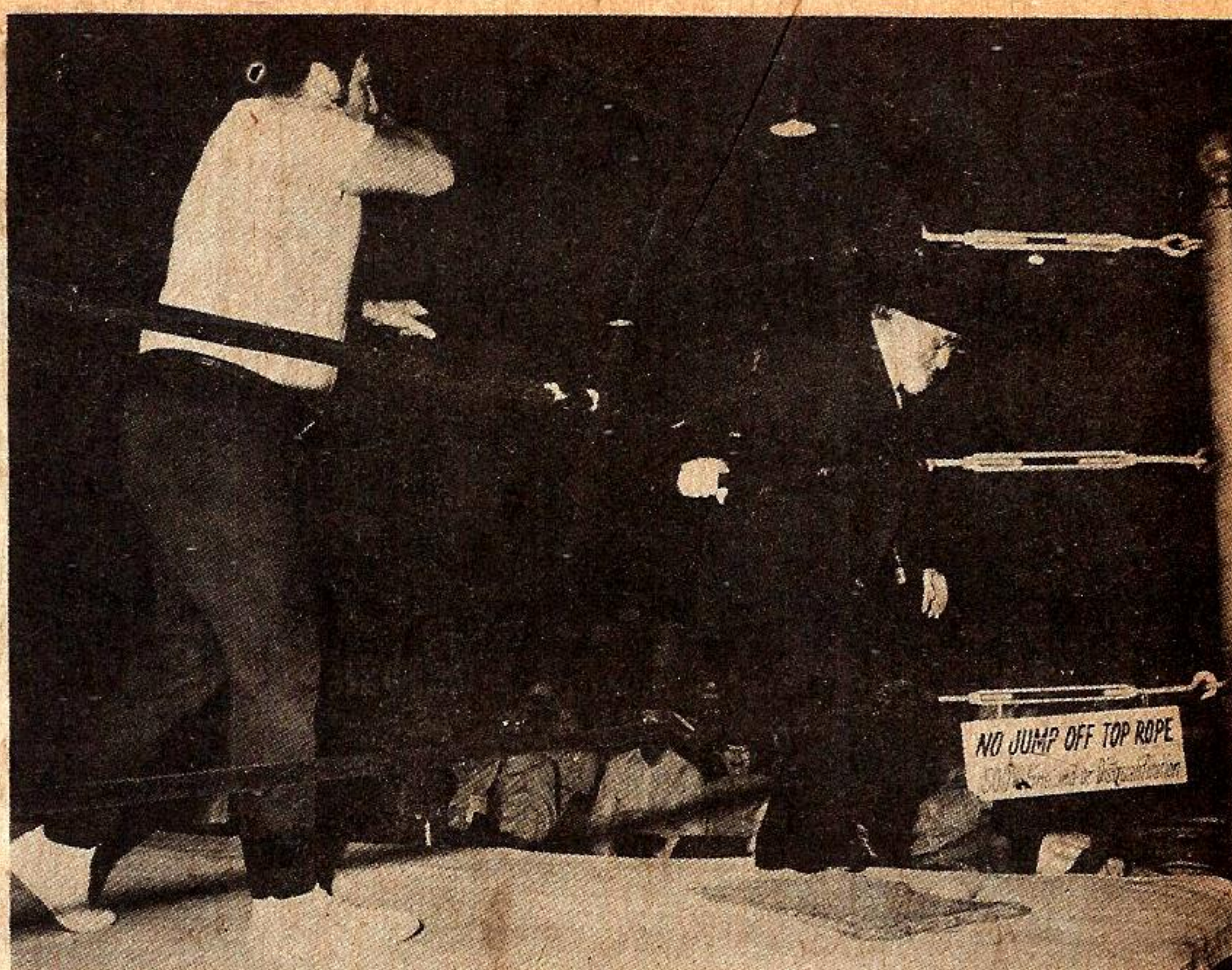
leglocks, headlocks, and even flips. And when the two threatened to pull illegal moves, which was almost constantly, the referee would wade into the fray and make sure the illegal hold was broken.

"To nobody's surprise, the match soon spilled over the ropes and the two men found themselves battling outside the ring. They were using anything they could get their hands on. It was only a matter of time before one or both of the men would be seriously, perhaps permanently, injured.

"There was only one man who could have prevented a real tragedy. Most men would have let the two giants beat each other's brains out. But this referee was not that kind of man.



Above: The referee bravely forces himself between Andre and Don Leo to stop Andre's choking. Above right: The easiest task the referee faces all night is chasing Brother Fred Major, Jonathan's Texas manager, from the ring. Right: The referee makes Andre and Jonathan return to the ring. They obeyed the referee, who did his best to prevent a wild brawl.



"With courage I've never seen before and probably will never see again, the referee stepped between the two men. Though he was dwarfed in physical stature, both wrestlers realized this man's courage was as great as any man alive.

"'I'm going to disqualify you both,' he threatened in strong, ringing tones, unless you return inside the ring! And I promise that after the dual disqualification, neither one will lay so much as a finger on the other. So if you want to continue this, it had better be done within the ropes!"

"The two wrestlers stared at the referee. They could see in the set of his features that he wasn't kidding around. Warily, never taking their eyes off each other, they re-entered the ring.

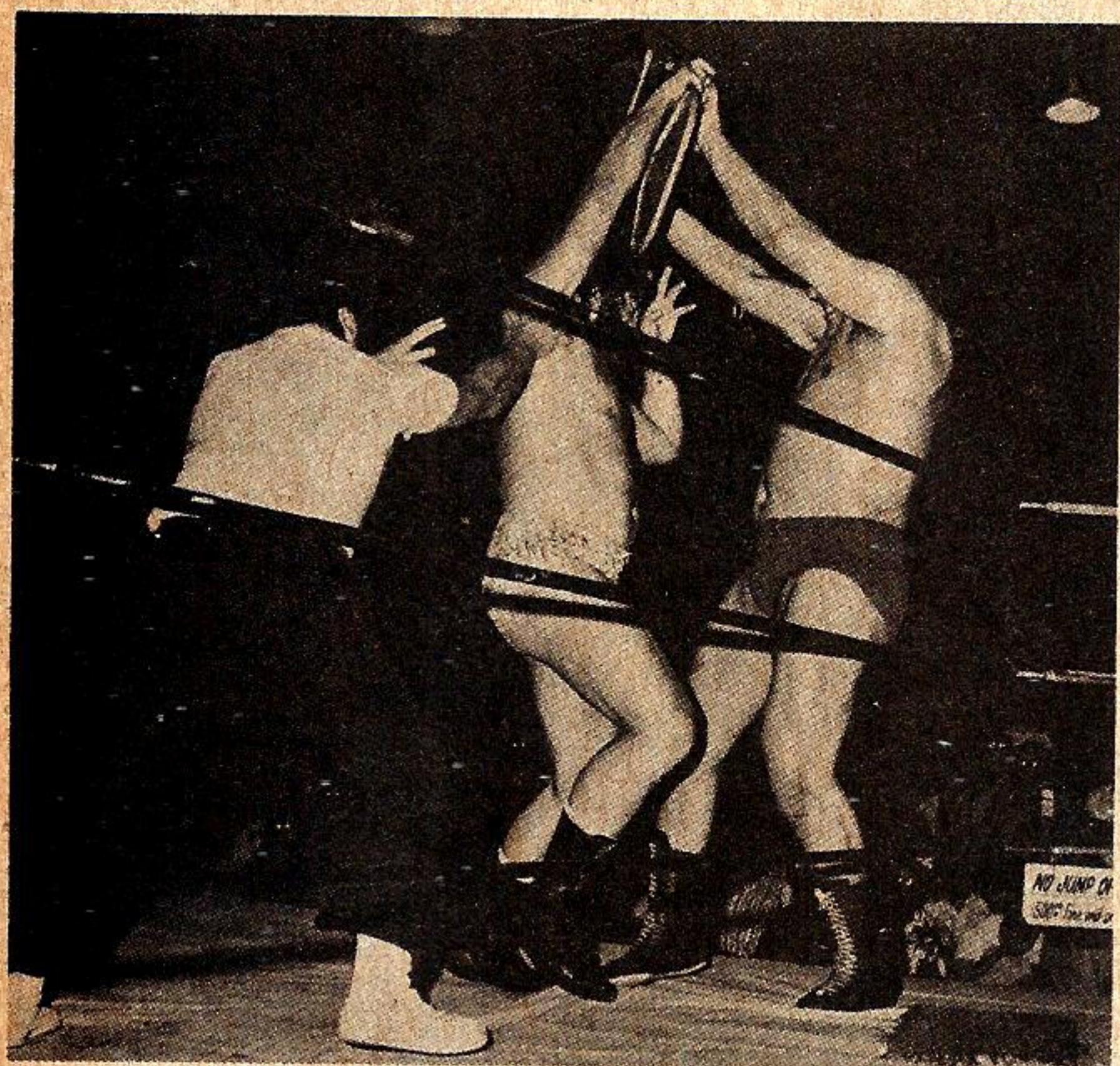
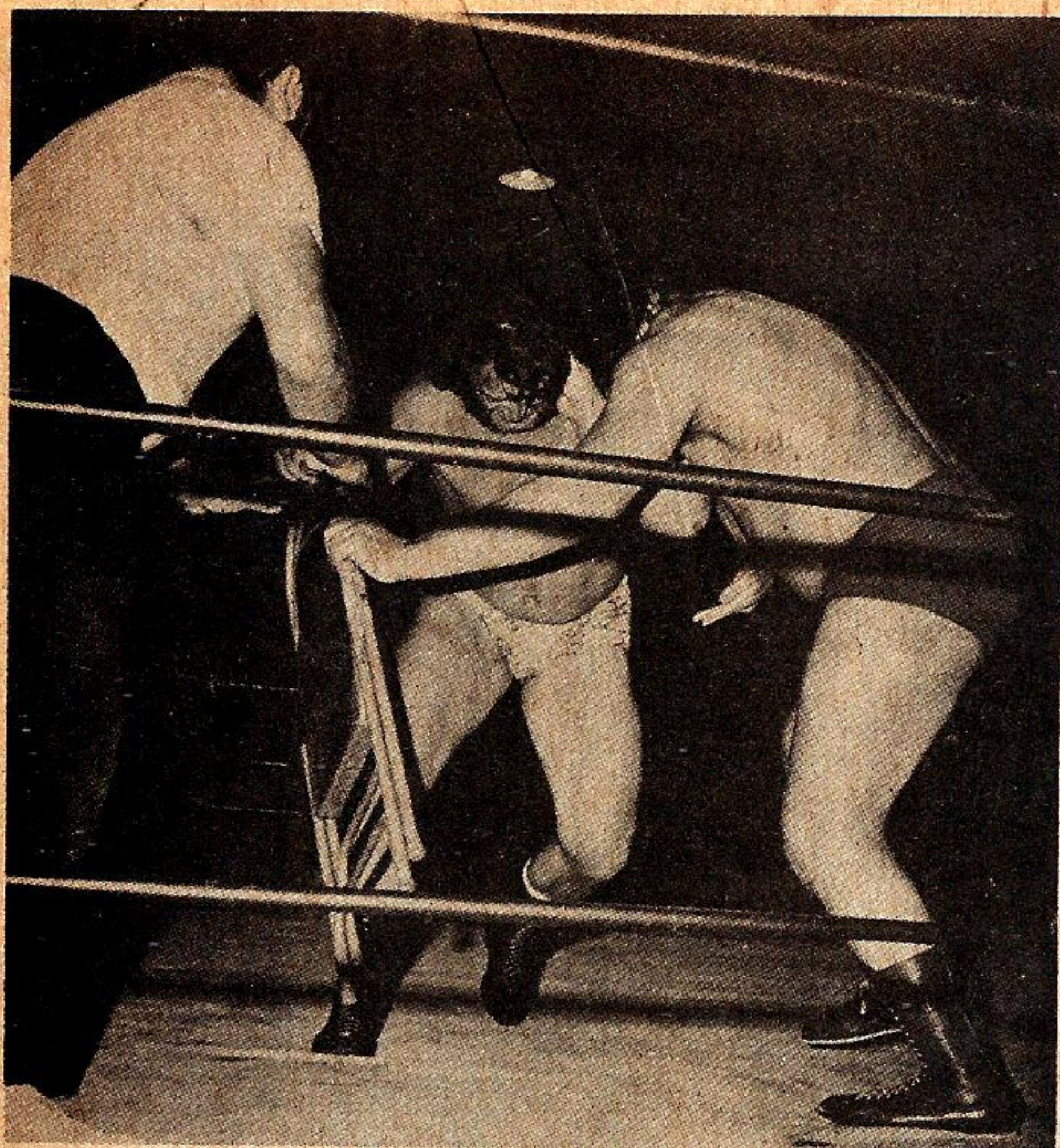
"Again the match was wild, wooly, and vicious. The huge men tore into each other, wanting to break

the other in half. Don Leo especially tried to use every dirty trick in the book. Yet, whenever he tried to be outrageously dirty, there was the referee, gallantly preventing him from turning the match into an out-and-out brawl.

"Brother Fred Major decided the battle had gone on too long and tried to take matters into his own hands. He grabbed a chair from ringside and threw it towards Don Leo. Don Leo picked it up and started after Andre.

"At this point anybody would have excused the referee if he had been afraid to stop the charging, armed Jonathan. However, this referee was not like most men. He tried his damndest to stop Jonathan.

"It was obvious from the look on Jonathan's face that he was stunned by the referee's courage. Jonathan doesn't respect anything, though. Not even



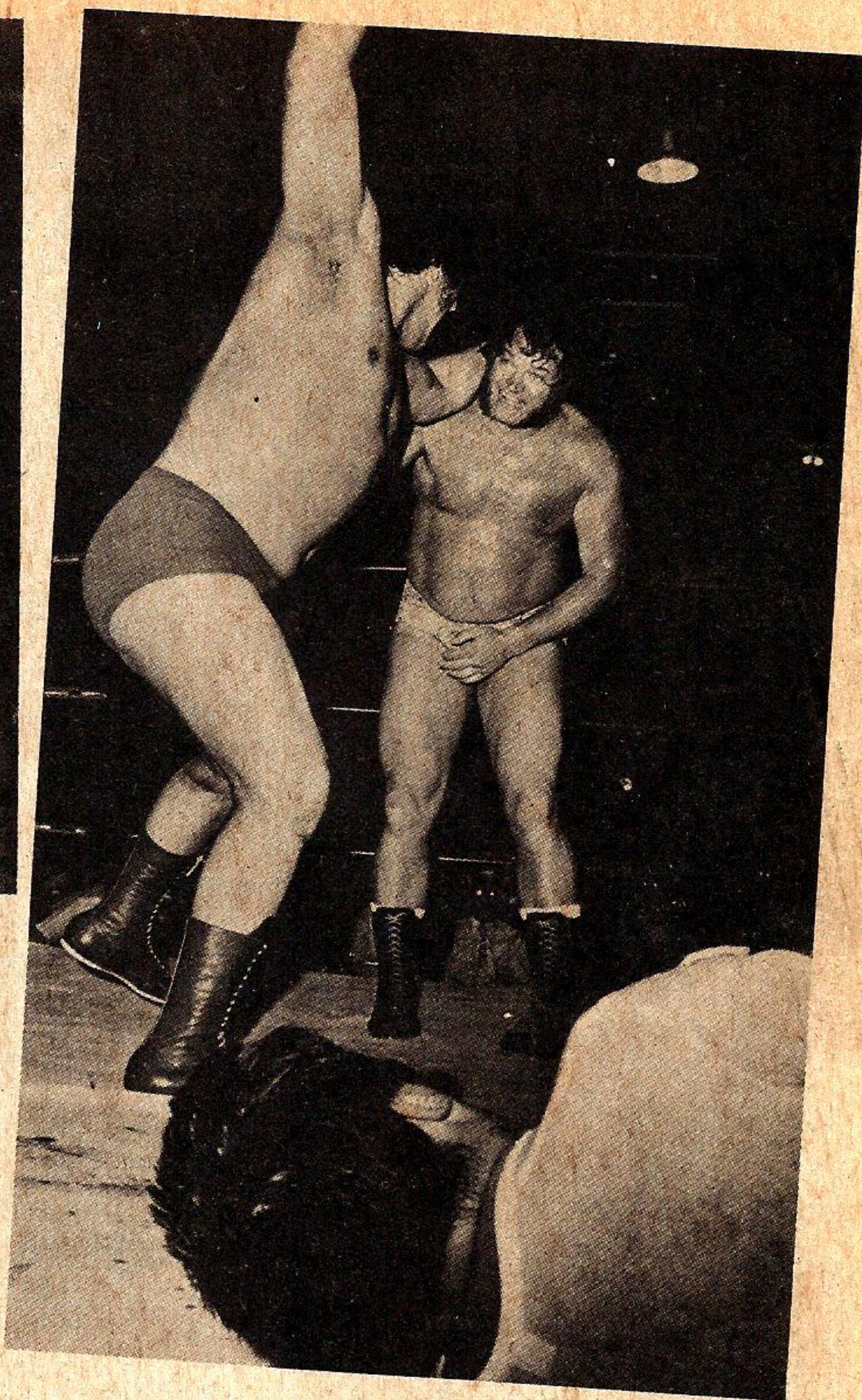
guts and integrity. He snarled, then lashed out with the chair at the referee. The poor man slumped to the canvas.

"This did give Andre a chance to grab at the chair, though. If the referee's job is to make the match as fair as possible, then the referee succeeded admirably. The two men struggled over the chair and Jonathan's weapon was neutralized.

"The two giants toppled over the ropes and continued their battle outside the ring. The chairs flew along with fists. And as they struggled, the referee managed to get to his feet.

"Still wobbly, he shouted at the wrestlers, 'I'm going to start to count you both out! And all action will stop once I reach 20! One, two, three, four....' and he counted to 20.

"'You're both disqualified!' he shouted as he



Jonathan brings a chair into the ring, looking to crown Andre (left). The referee ignores his own safety and tries to wrest the chair from Jonathan's hands (above left). In the ensuing fracas, it's the referee who takes the chair crashing down on his head but this allows Andre to defend himself (above). Finally, both men had to be disqualified.

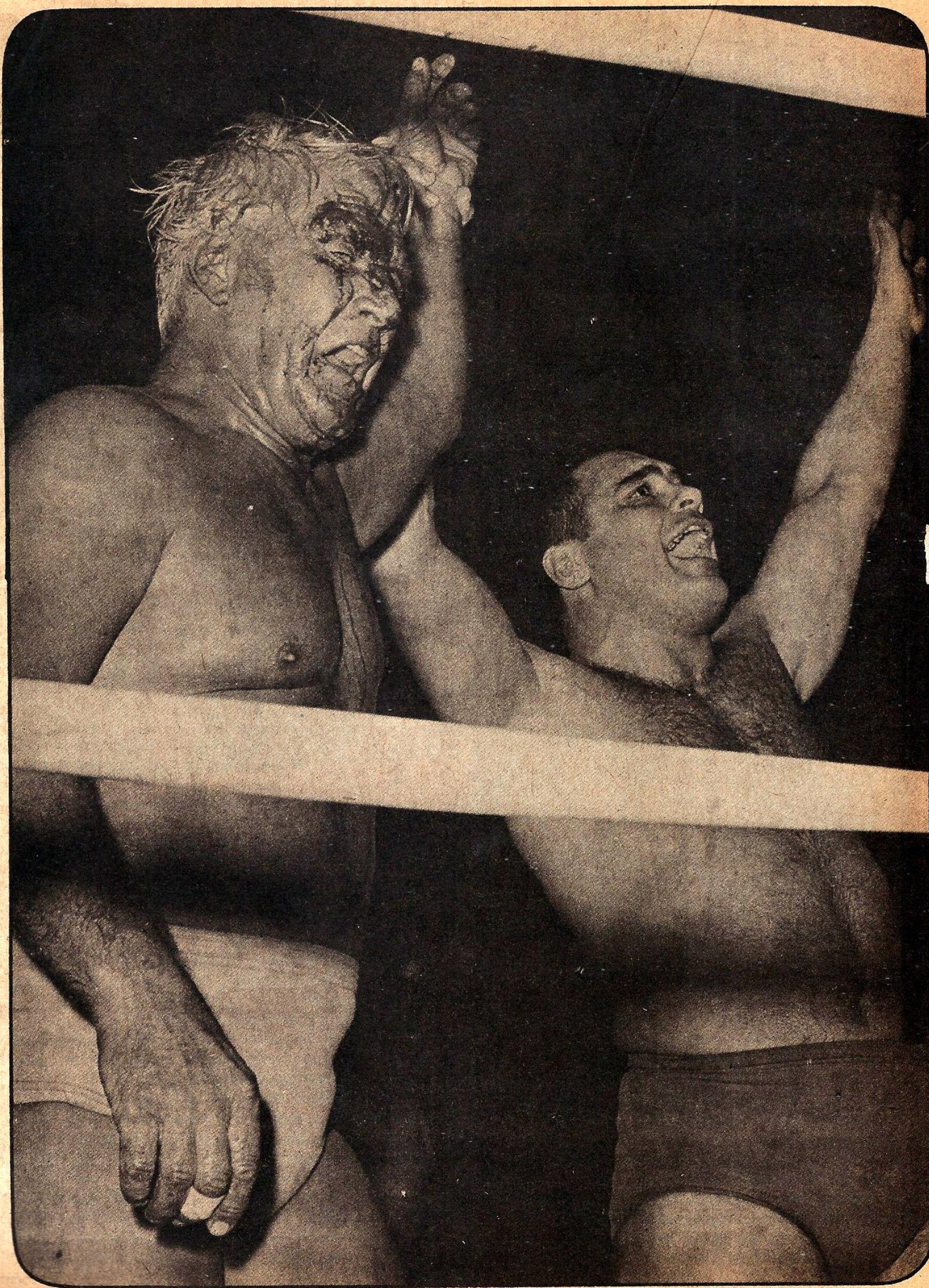
signaled the special police to break it up.

"Break it up they did. The referee made good his promise. When he disqualified them, neither got a chance to touch the other.

"It was a furious, vicious battle between two sworn enemies. But because of the referee's courage, neither athlete was permanently injured.

"Brother Fred Major tried to get the referee to change his decision. The referee saw him coming and quickly chased him back to the dressing room. He wasn't about to let the little cheat start trouble after all he'd been through!

"I just had to write and tell your magazine about the greatest act of courage and integrity I have ever witnessed. And I hope fans will remember this match when they insult the referees. I doubt if they would have 1/100 of the courage displayed by this referee!"



WHEN JOHN TOLOS AND FREDDIE BLASSIE WERE FRIENDS!

Photos By Theo Ehret

FRED BLASSIE AND John Tolos friends?

That makes as much sense as someone telling you that adding one and one equals three.

But as little sense as that first bit of information seems to make, it really was true. At one time Blassie and Tolos, now bitterest of enemies, were friends.

There was nothing Fred and John wouldn't do for each other. They were united in their goal of wiping out men like Mil Mascaras, Prince Maivia and other fan favorites.

"John Tolos," Fred Blassie said during their friendly days, "is the greatest partner anyone could have. He's got more guts than anyone. I'd say almost as much as me. And what I like even more, is that Tolos is a hungry, bloodthirsty animal, just like me. That's the way I like my partners."

Tolos was equally kind when he spoke of Blassie.

"The Golden Greek proclaims that Mr. Fred Blassie is the best partner I could have chosen to help me get rid of the garbage men. What a good laugh Blassie and I get when we see Mascaras and his kind. They actually think they're wrestlers! That's the funniest thing we've ever heard. Me and Fred, we're inseperable!"

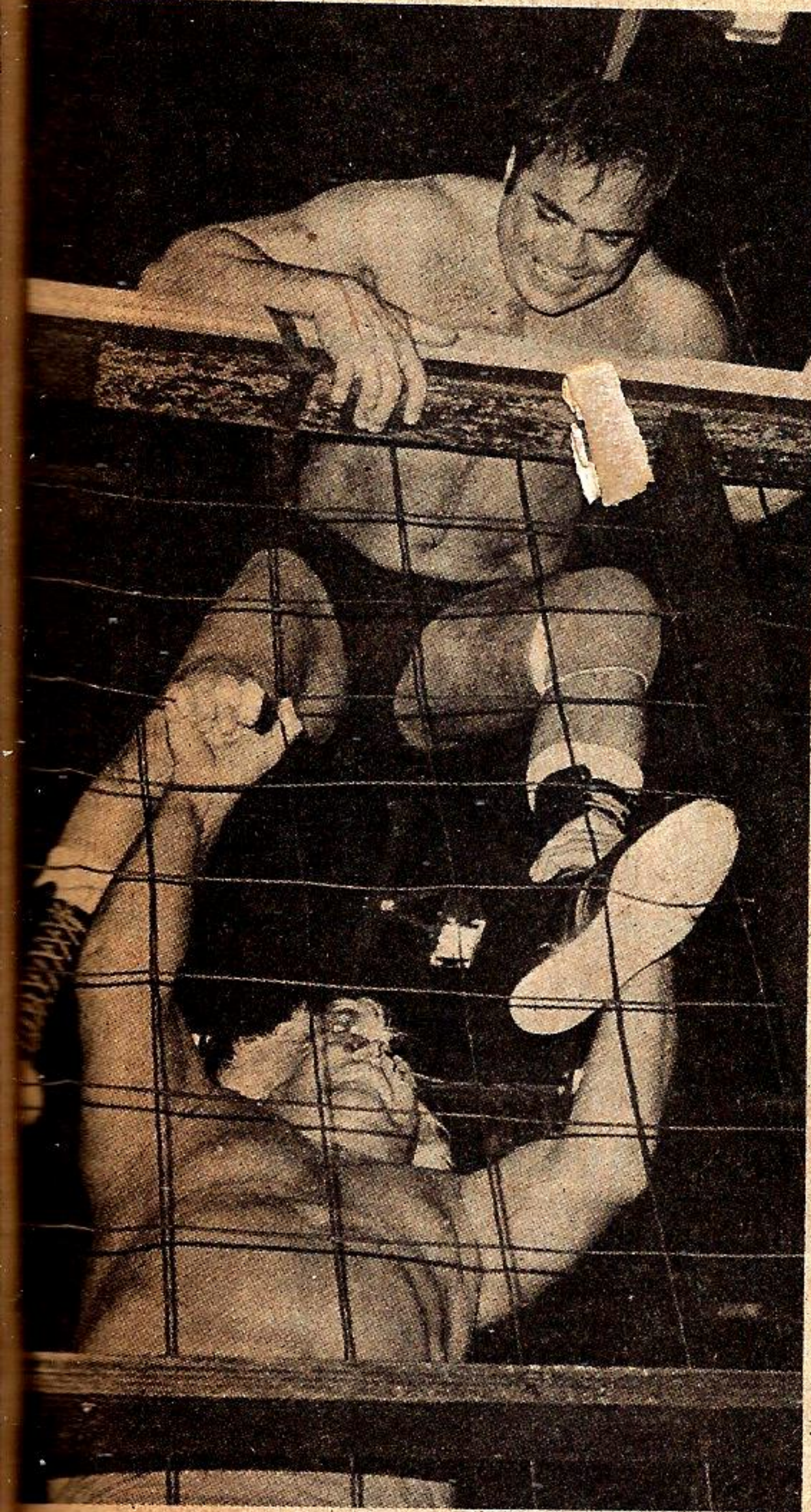
Together, as a team, they refused to accept single matches. In only a few weeks they became the top contenders for the Americas' title. That was the time Blassie and Tolos would unknowingly get into hassle. A big hassle.

Just a few days before their title match, Blassie was offered a shot at The Sheik's United States championship.

"You can't go into that match!" Tolos exclaimed when Fred told him of the news. Fred's reaction was that of a very disappointed man. Had Tolos gotten the title shot, Blassie claims, "I would have been happy for him. I wouldn't have held him back."

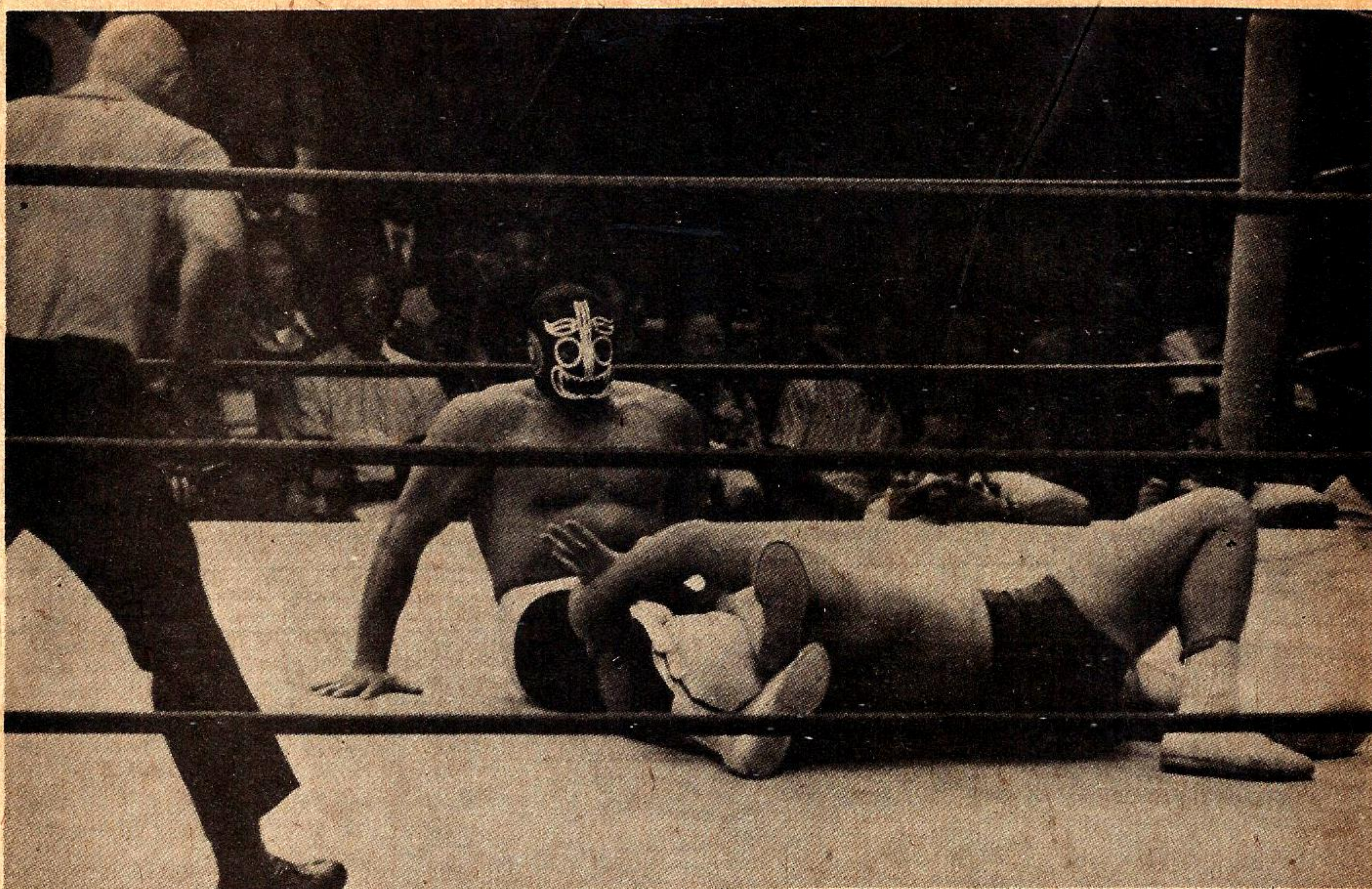
They argued endlessly.

(Continued on page 54)



At one time, John Tolos and Freddie Blassie were best of tag team partners and friends (opposite page). As this recent cage match shows (above), they are now very bitter enemies.

They started out as friends. Then, a shocking series of events unfolded that made Fred Blassie and John Tolos try to kill each other. Now neither will rest until one of them does indeed destroy the other!



DESTROYER AND TEAR UP A TAG

Mil Mascaras and Destroyer are sought after by hundreds of wrestlers as tag team partners. But nobody wants to be either one's partner when the two enemies face each other

PHOTOS BY KEIKO KUSUBAYASHI

IT WAS SUPPOSED to be a tag team match. Mil Mascaras was supposed to wrestle against Destroyer and Baba the Giant. And Destroyer was supposed to wrestle against Mascaras and Bob Roop.

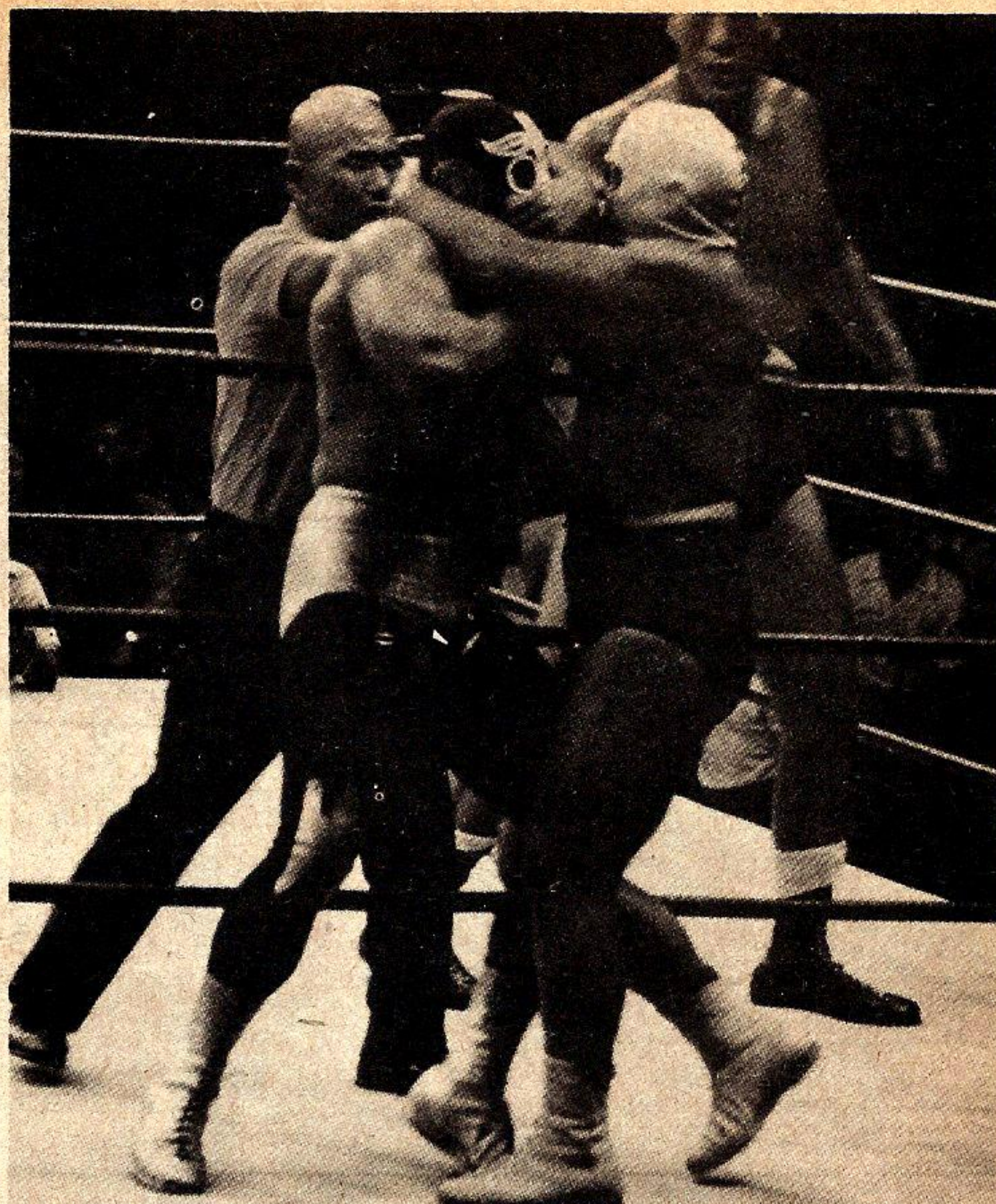
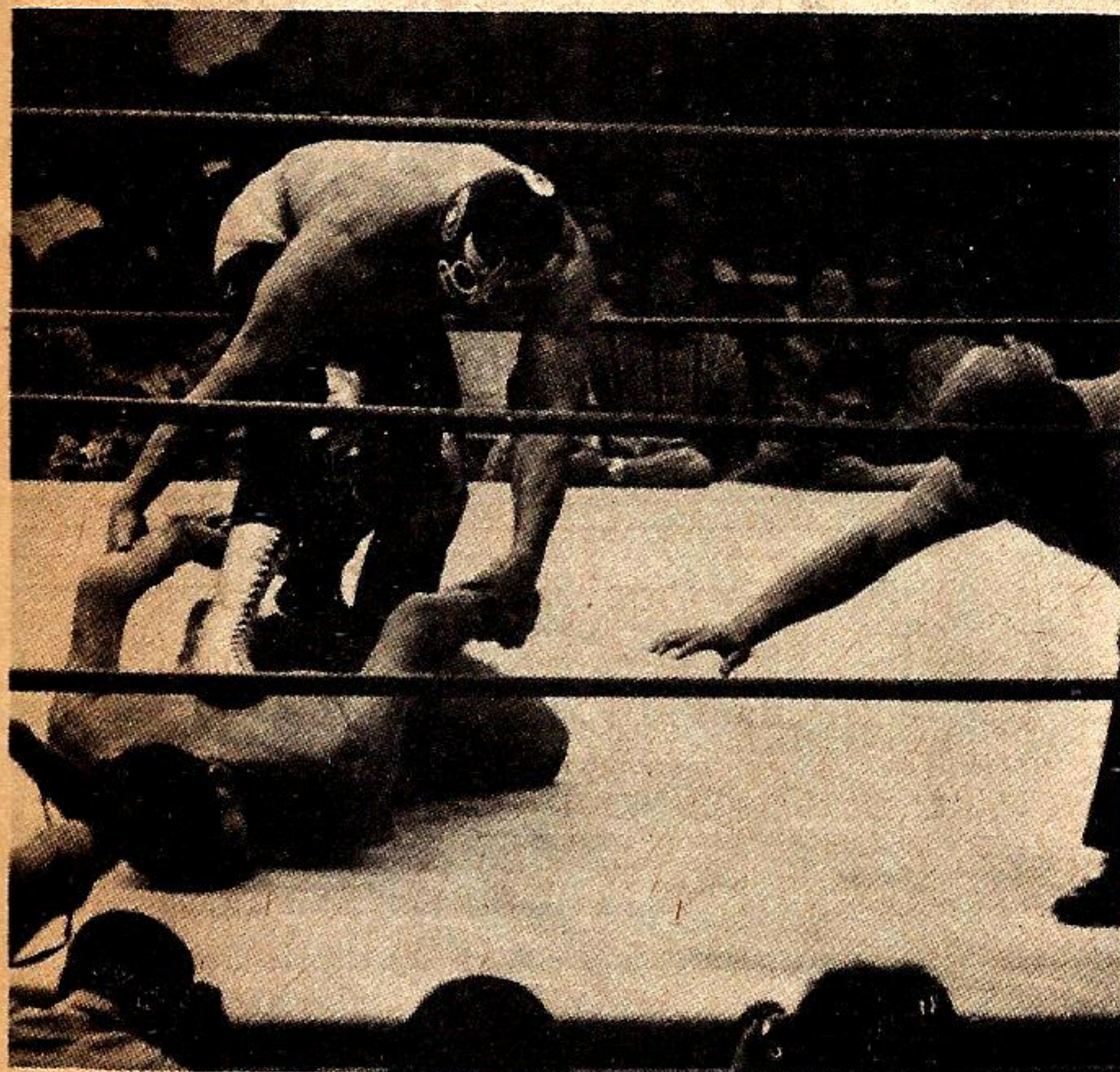
However, when Mascaras and Destroyer get each other in an arena, there is no one else that matters. And this confuses their partners, Baba and Roop.

"I understand," Bob explains, "what Mil and Destroyer mean to each other. Each believes he's the best masked wrestler in the world. I know personally how important dignity and self-respect is to Mil and I'm sure Destroyer is just as proud. Both men are great athletes who, if the other wasn't around, would be acknowledged as the best. If they miss an opportunity to de-

feat the other, it might be construed as weakness. And neither man would allow any sign of weakness.

"This makes for tough tag team matches, though. If those guys are concentrating on each other, they're ignoring what's going on in the match. And if you need your partner for help, man, you're in trouble."

Mil locks The Destroyer's head in an all-out effort to finish off his adversary (opposite page). Baba gets into action for a moment and regrets it (below). It's a free-for-all as the masked men take their running battle outside the ropes (right).



D MASCARAS TEAM MATCH !

Baba agrees it's not the easiest thing in the world to be Destroyer's partner when Mascaras is on the other team.

"It's less a tag team match," Baba believes, "than two separate matches. Those two aren't interested in the match as a whole but in proving their superiority. At times, it gets infuriating. Though there are few professional wrestlers with whom I'd rather be teammates than Destroyer, when Mascaras is on the other team, I know it's every man for himself.

"Those two have something to prove and there's no real way they're ever going to prove it. So they'll continue to engage in these

mammoth confrontations, each trying to totally overpower the other. Neither one can prove as superior as he would like to seem. So they'll keep pounding away at each other until they're both old men or one ends the other's career.

"But in the meantime, Lord help the tag team partners who find themselves in a match between those two."

Both men are aware of what their feud means to their partners and are truly sorry the situation exists. Yet, they both feel there is nothing either can do.

"When I'm in a tag team match," Mil says, "my partner becomes like my brother. Our fates are one, our

cause is one. We either win or lose together. Being someone's tag team partner is a sacred trust.

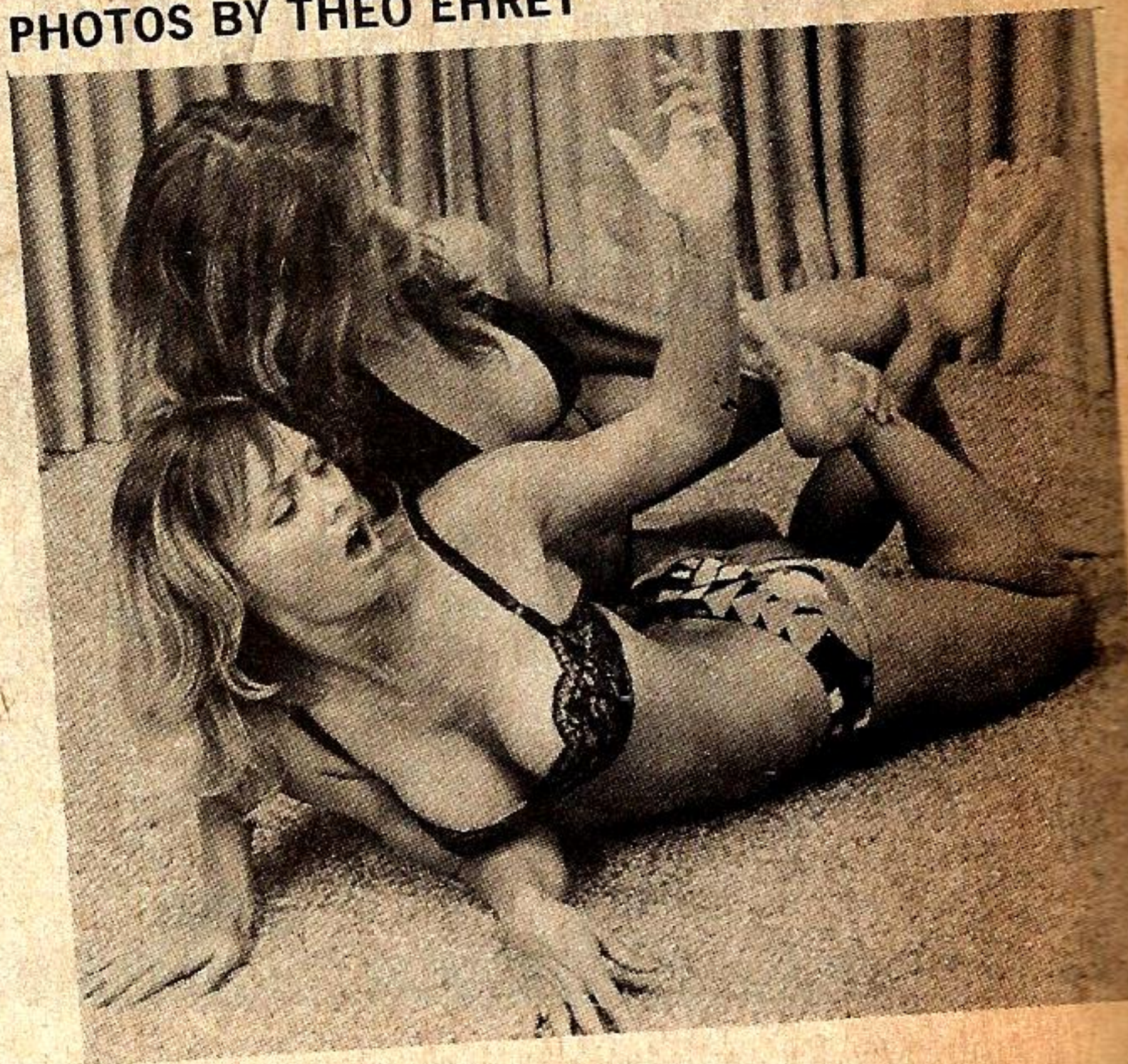
"Yet I'm afraid my pride is greater than my commitment to my partner. Destroyer is the only wrestler who can challenge my superiority over masked wrestlers. My fans all over the world consider me the greatest masked wrestler. My allegiance to my fans and to my pride is greater than my allegiance to my tag team partner. It's something I can't change. My choice is made. It may not be right but it's what I have to do."

Mil has even considered abandoning tag team matches when one

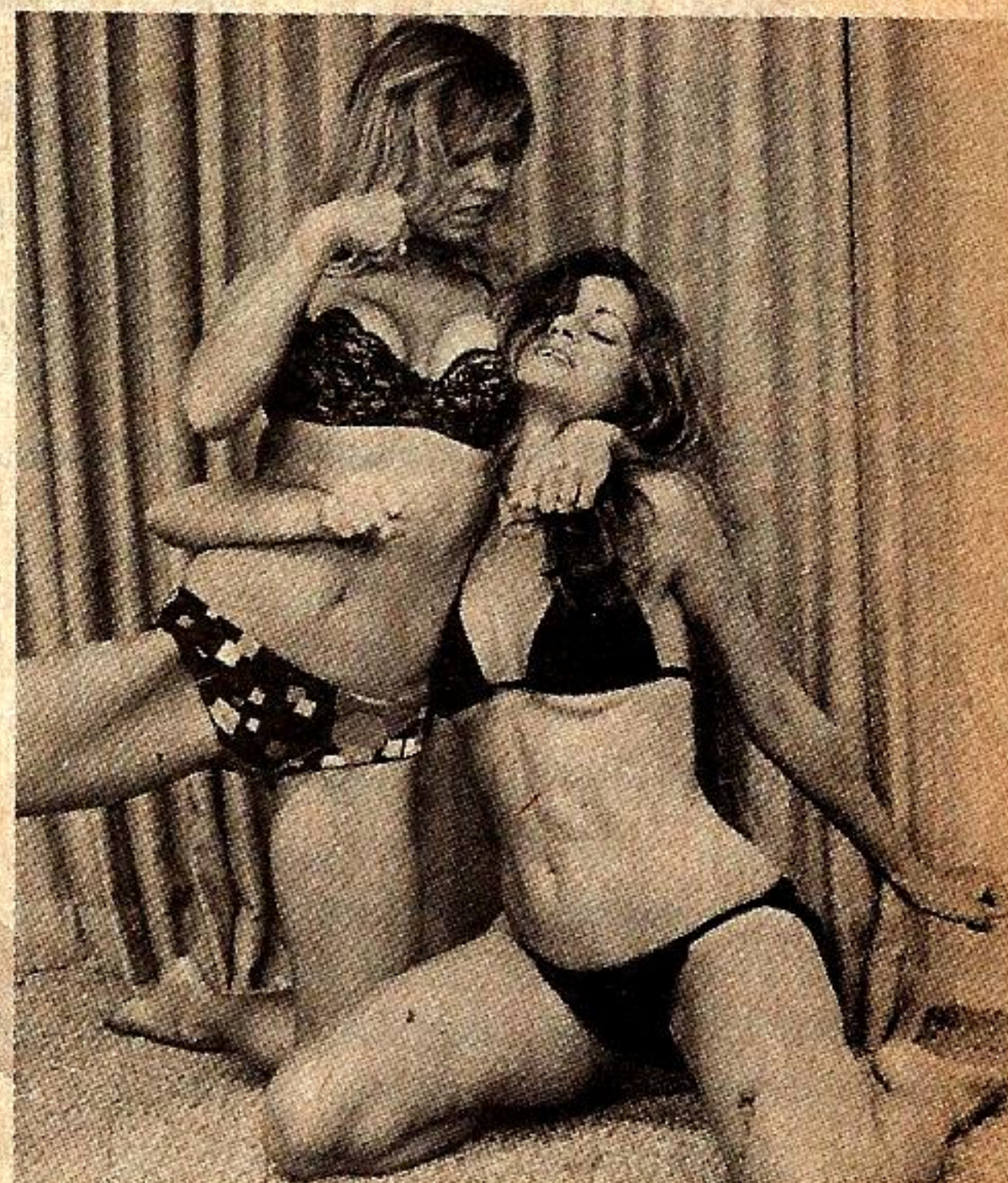
(Continued on page 56)

APARTMENT HOUSE FIRST CH

PHOTOS BY THEO EHRET



With a championship at stake, the girls throw away the rules and tear into each other. How much pain their opponent is in is their measure of success.



The two best apartment house wrestlers in the country met on neutral turf to decide the championship. When the battle was over, no one who had witnessed it would ever be the same again

SE WRESTLING GETS ITS champion!!!

AND YOU'RE RIGHT THERE FOR THE TITLE MATCH!!!

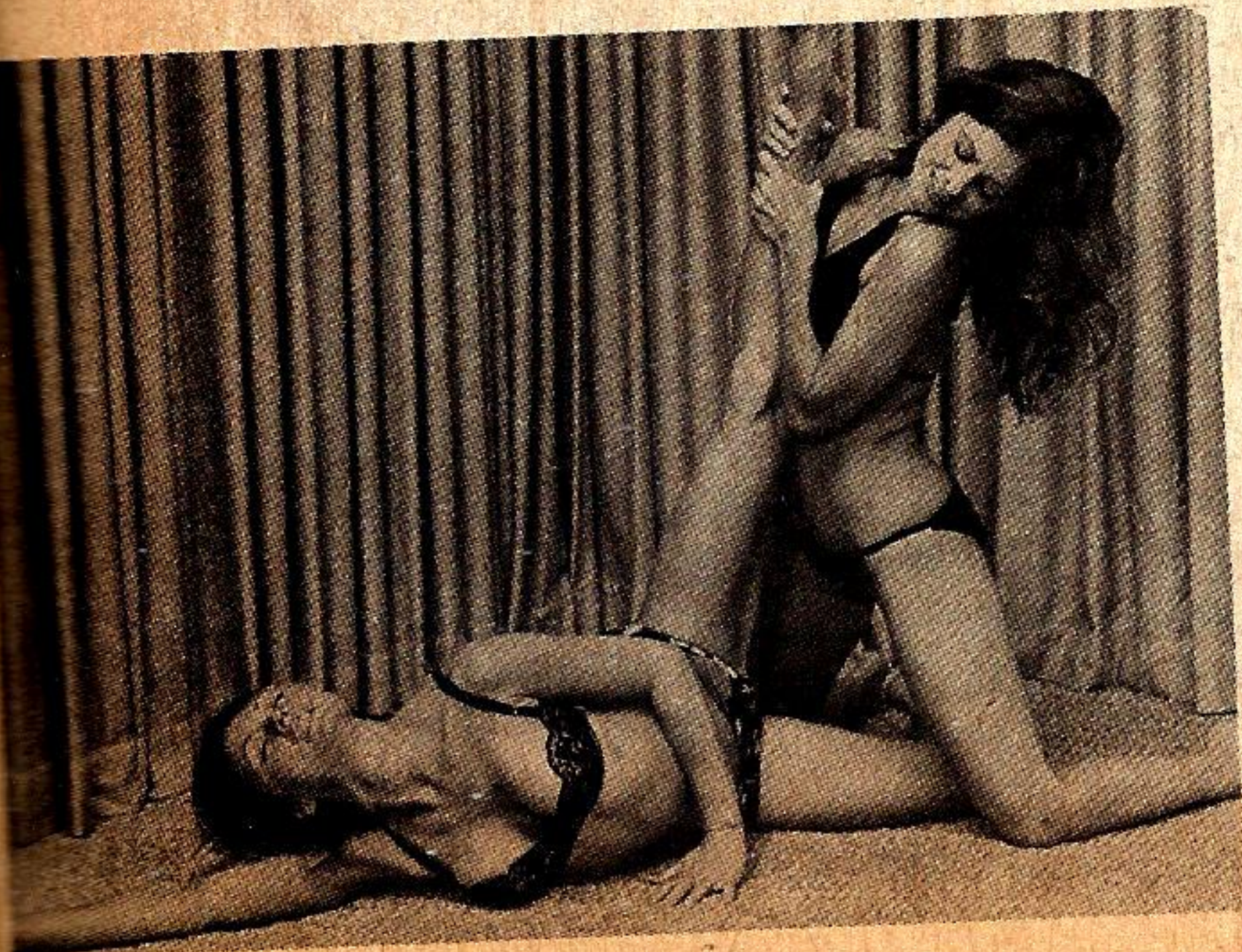
A TEMPESTUOUS BLONDE spitfire named Cynara has won the United States Apartment House Wrestling Championship!!!

Cynara has been thrilling apartment house wrestling fans in Los Angeles for more than two years. Her stunning beauty grows richer and deeper when she allows her animal ferocity to rage unchecked. When Cynara wrestles, the apartment overflows with spectators. Some have even bribed those with seats up close for sums up to \$50 to see this woman tear into an opponent.

SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING was notified of an elimination tournament, the winner to meet the best apartment house wrestler of New York. Few were surprised when Cynara emerged victorious. She had already become a legend amongst the L.A. sophisticates.

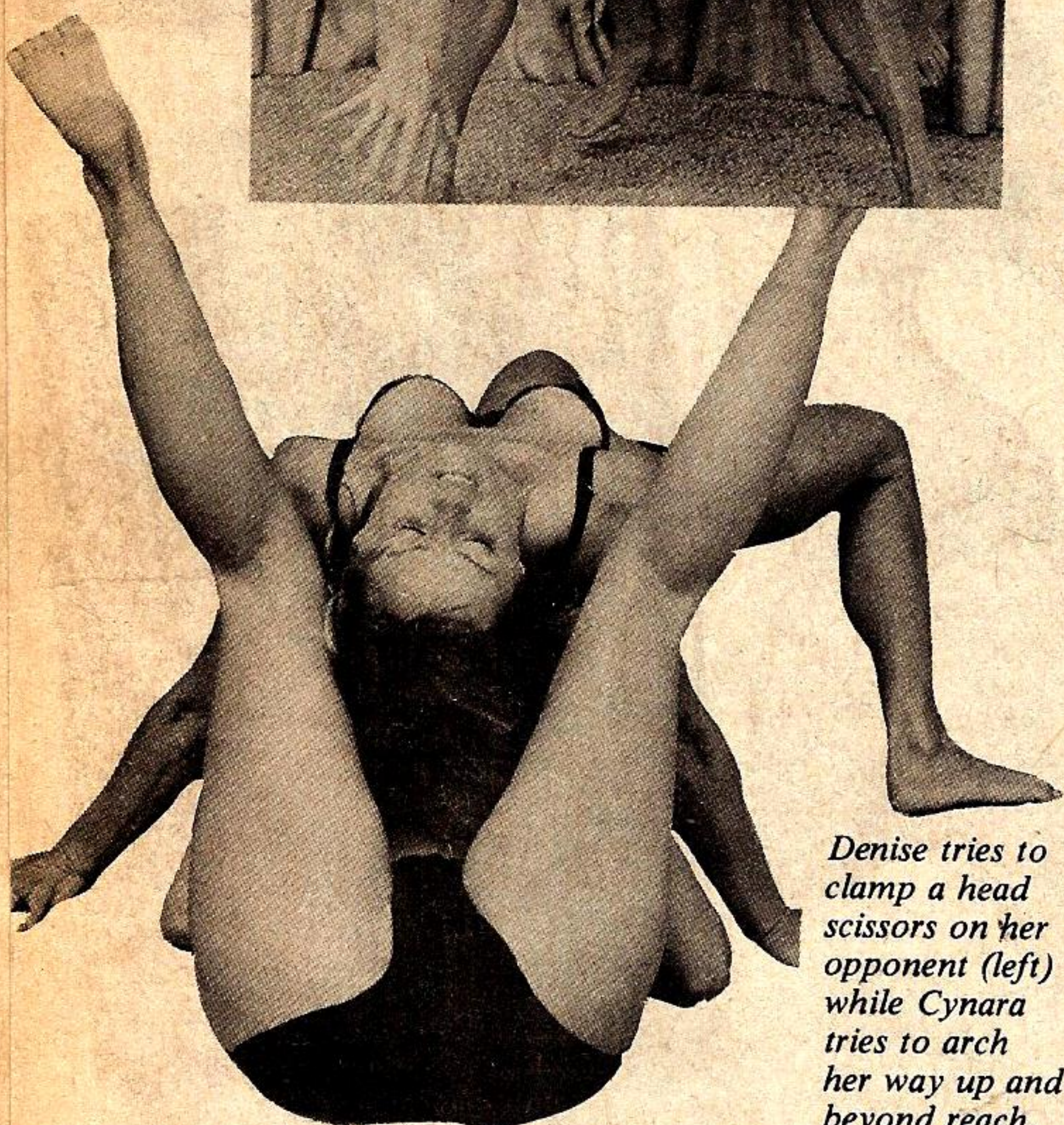
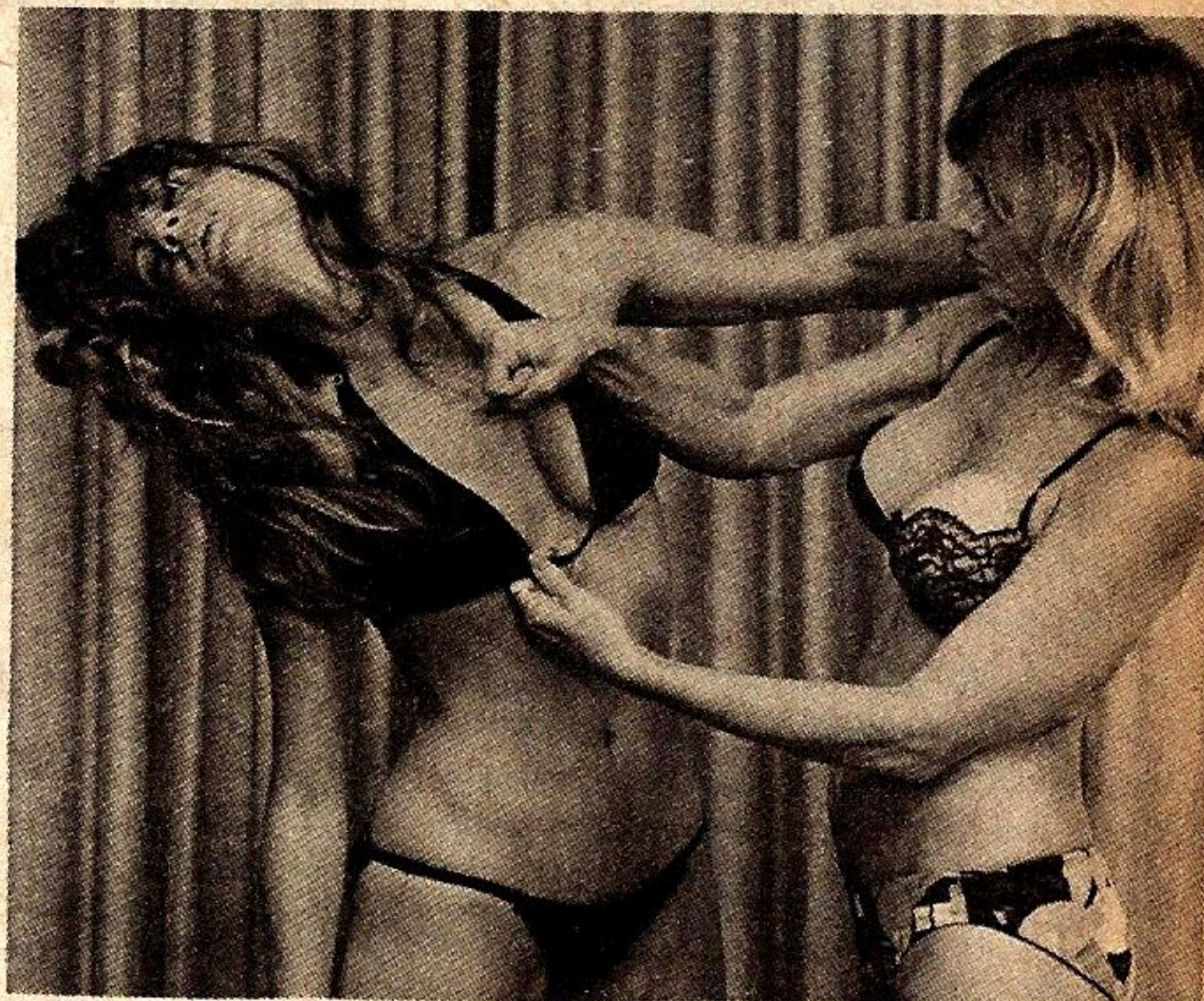
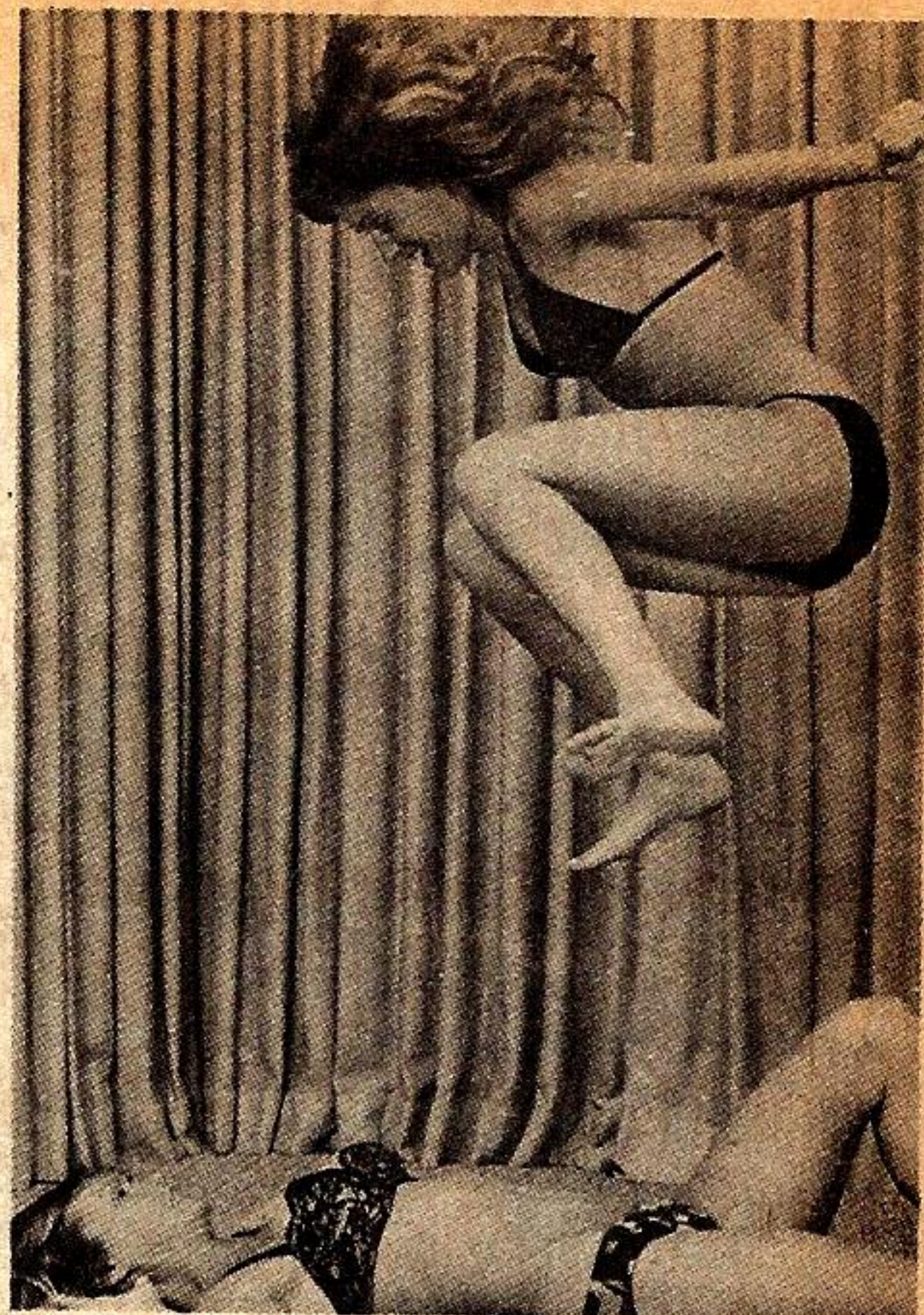
New York's elimination tourna-

Denise does her best to rip Cynara's leg muscles by savagely twisting the ankle (bottom) and thigh (right). Cynara's body is agonizingly twisted by the holds but the pain only doubles the girl's determination to conquer.





Left: Cynara's strong legs are taut with power as she uses a cross-body block to send the-charging Denise sailing into the air. Right: With savage glee, Denise leaps into the air to come crashing down onto Cynara's open and vulnerable chest. Below: Cynara grabs the bra string of Denise's bikini to keep her opponent still for a hard right which snaps Denise's head back.



Denise tries to clamp a head scissors on her opponent (left) while Cynara tries to arch her way up and beyond reach.

ment, the other city in which apartment house wrestling has become the new passion of hip society, took over three months and involved over 40 determined women. New York fans turned the tournament into a kind of festival, with much elaborate celebrating before and after the matches. After many bruising brawls, during some of which serious injuries were inflicted upon the young girls, a scrappy tigress named Denise emerged as New York's finest.

"She isn't very skillful," one New York lawyer admitted, "but she's hell on wheels when she gets near an opponent! She has brute strength and what can only be described as a killer instinct.

"She has a sixth sense concerning her opponent's weaknesses and knows just what to go for. One of her opponents told me, 'I know I'm

the better wrestler—but there was no way I could beat her. She does everything awkwardly but it's the exact thing she should do to win. To defeat her, you've got to be perfect. She capitalizes on every mistake. And who's perfect?'"

The night of the championship arrived and fans filled the luxurious mansion. So as no girl would have the advantage of a hometown crowd, the match was held in Chicago. Still, New Yorkers and Angelinos came by car and jet to sit on the beautiful leather couches and watch the match. Many brought champagne and spirits were bubbling over when the two girls entered the ballroom.

There's nothing like two tawny, beautiful women to make a roomful of men respectfully quiet. Cynara and Denise were tense but in the best sense of the word. Their

adrenalin was flowing, enabling them to perform with the little extra that separates the great from the classic. Watching the girls clench and unclench their long, powerful fingers, the men knew this match would have been worth traveling from Hong Kong to see.

As each lady was introduced, the apartment filled with the lusty cheers of their partisans. It seemed fairly evenly divided, each girl being equally effective in drawing men more than 1,000 miles to see them.

What the spectators didn't know was the battle plan each girl had devised for this match. Both plans were revealed to those select friends each girl had in her separate room during the tense moments before the match began.

"I'm going to be cunning," Cynara informed intimates, "lay

Cynara digs her nails into Denise's face, while she also twists her victim's neck (left). It is Denise's turn to do the twisting when she bends Cynara's back and chokes her (right).



Denise wrenches Cynara's arm behind her back as Cynara contorts in agony (above). Denise forces Cynara to the floor to win her first fall (right).

back at first. The first few minutes will be strictly defense. I'll tire her body and frustrate her spirit. I'll wait until she's breathing hard and then attack. I'll take the first two falls and win it. As soon as her spirit is broken, I'll tear her apart. It should be simple.

"My legs will fly tonight, lash into her body. The poor kid won't know what hit her. By the time she finds out, I'll be the apartment house wrestling champion!"

Cynara's liquid blue eyes glistened as they silently challenged anyone to contradict her. Only silence followed, for her friends had long ago learned not to cross Cynara when her mind was on the match. She could be verbally as well as physically vicious.

As for Denise, she stated coldly, "I'll hurt her and hurt her quickly. I don't want her to be able to get

out for the second fall. I don't care about style. I care about winning.

"I've been Denise the dental assistant long enough. After tonight, I'll be Denise the champion."

So when the two strong-willed, stunning creatures strutted barefoot across the plush carpet, each knew what had to be done. Each was determined to do it.

The match commenced and Denise immediately showed the savage brute strength which made her emerge victorious over the other New York girls. She flew, teeth bared and eyes wild, at Cynara. However, Cynara sidestepped at the very last moment, like a matador avoiding a bull. Denise crashed into the wall and crumpled, seeming dazed, into the carpet.

Cynara leapt at her fallen opponent. Denise showed she too was cunning. She had been playing pos-

sum and grabbed the charging Cynara around the waist. Using Cynara's momentum, Denise flipped her over. Cynara, too, learned what it felt like to slam into the wall.

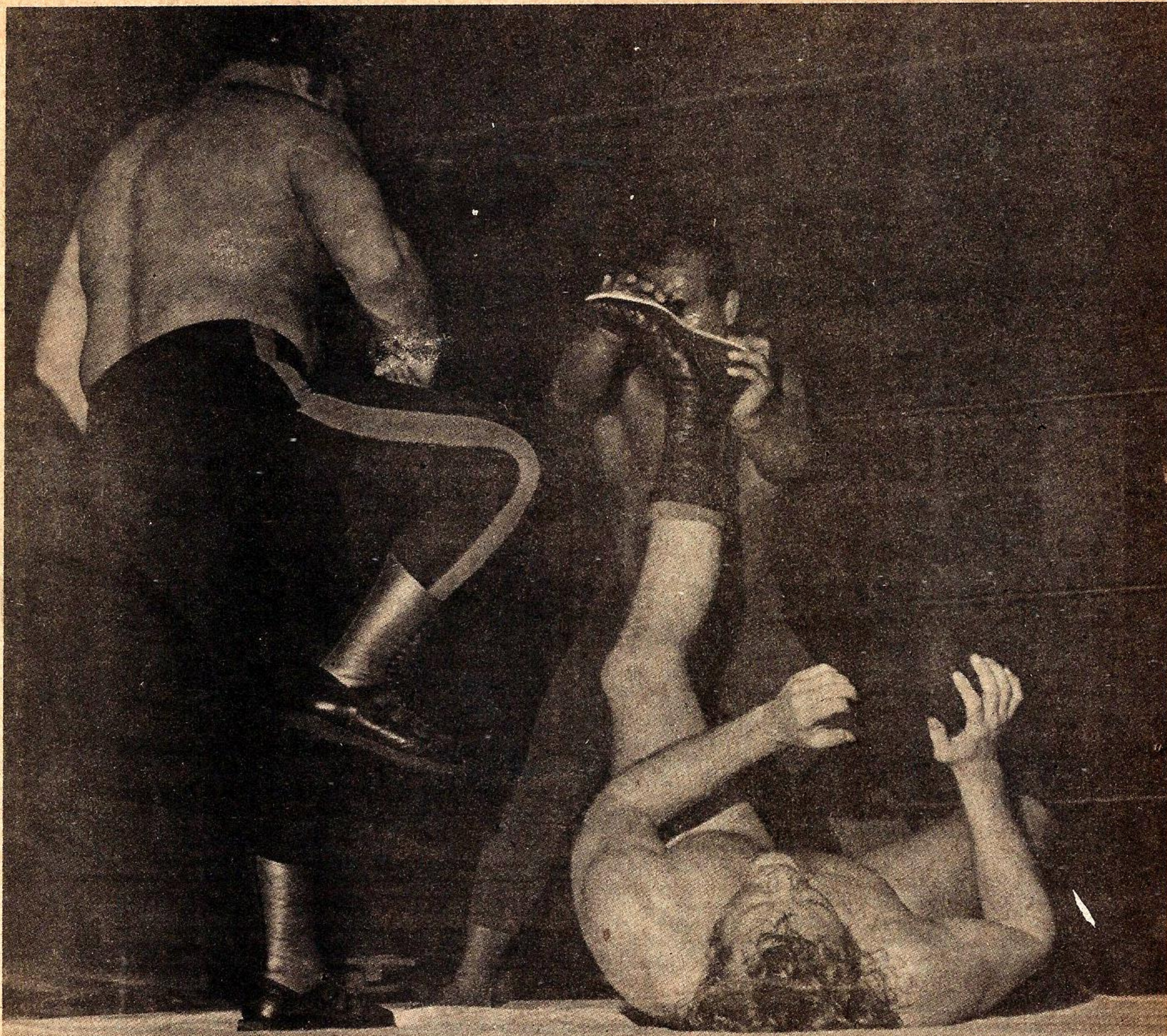
Cynara shook her head to get the cobwebs out and see what could be done. The blonde realized she would have to be more cautious—and more cruel. Her eyes gleamed with cold fury.

Even after the first encounter, the two girls slowly circled each other. After seconds which seemed like days, Denise flew head first into Cynara's stomach.

This time the brunette hit her target squarely. Cynara's grunt upon impact could be heard around the huge room. Cynara desperately tried to hold on to her opponent while she caught her breath but

(Continued on page 58)

PHOTOS BY GENE GORDON



"LET'S BUST HIS LEG!"

WHEN ED WISKOWSKI hobbled back to the dressing room he was smiling—despite the pain. Ed was happy to be walking at all.

He had just spent what seemed a lifetime with his left leg being tortured by the cruel expertise of Mr. Ota and Bill White. Both men were intent on breaking Wiskowski's leg, hoping to cause permanent injury.

First it was White who twisted Ed's leg. Using a brutal modified Boston crab, White wrapped the limb around his own body. The pain was horribly etched into Ed's face as White continued to wrench the leg.

White then allowed Mr. Ota, a

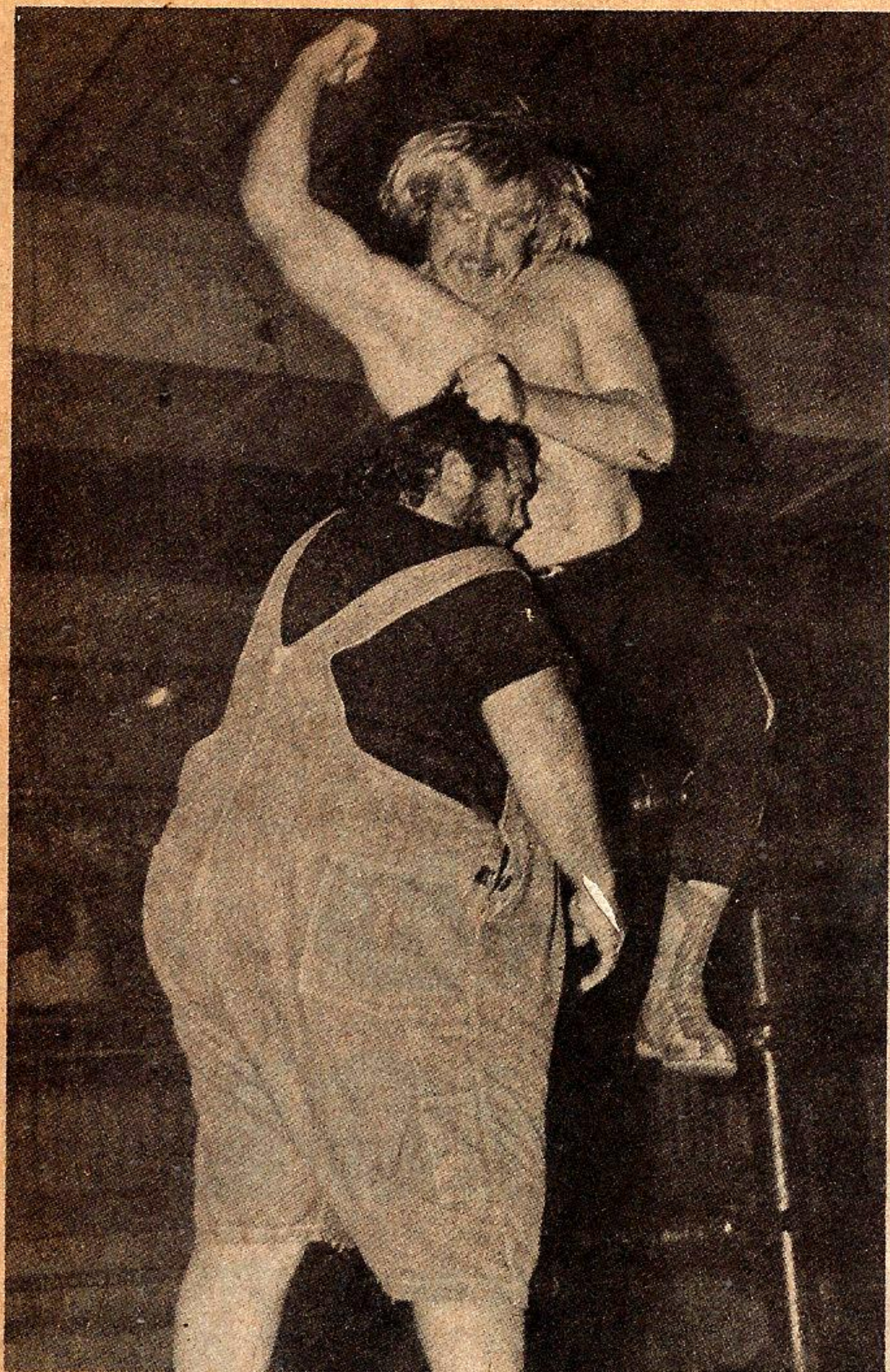
Bill White and Mr. Ota did everything in their power to make Ed Wiskowski a cripple for life! Ed came terrifyingly close to spending the rest of his life in a wheelchair

master of pressure-point punishment, to continue where he left off. Ota almost ripped Ed's leg muscle to shreds by applying an Osaka toehold. This cruelly effective hold stretches the muscle to tearing and weakens the joint between knee and lower

leg. When executed perfectly for over a minute, a man can be crippled for life.

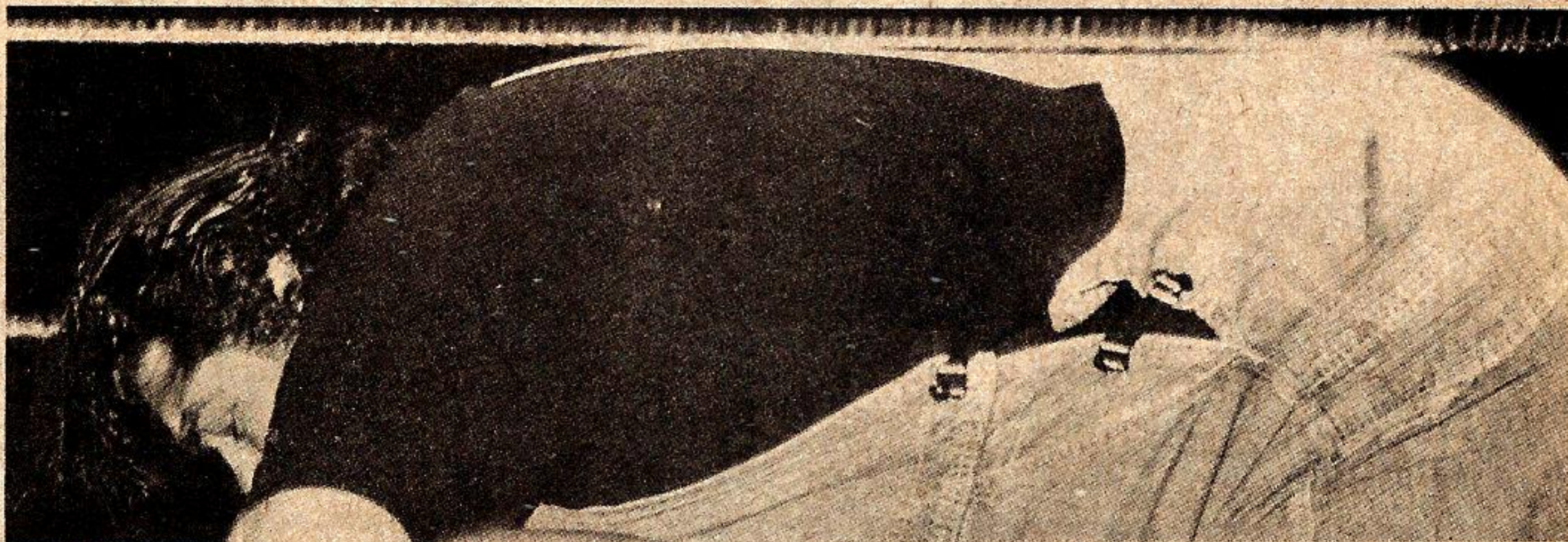
Ironically, Wiskowski was saved by White. Bill wanted to be in on the kill and jumped over the ropes to

(Continued on page 49)



THE SECRET WEAPON THAT ALMOST KILLED HAYSTACKS CALHOUN!

O'Connor leaps high into the air and delivers his atomic skull crusher with full, deadly force atop Haystacks Calhoun's head (above). Chuck succeeds beyond his wildest dreams as Haystacks crumples to the mat lifelessly (right).



CHUCK O'CONNOR PACED nervously back and forth in the dressing room, his match with Haystacks Calhoun less than one hour away. Wouldn't you be nervous wrestling such a 601-pound mountain of flesh and bone?

Knowing that worrying would do him absolutely no good, he decided to channel his energy in another direction—right out the door and into other dressing rooms.

"I figured that of all the wrestlers on the card, at least one of them could give me advice on how to take down the big guy," said Chuck. "All

Chuck O'Connor had less than an hour before facing Haystacks Calhoun. The only thing separating him and certain doom was the hasty advice of Johnny Valentine

the guys I spoke to were willing to help, but when they heard I was wrestling Haystacks, they all kind of swallowed hard and said, 'Sorry, Chuck, there's virtually no way to bring Calhoun down. He's almost immovable!'"

That kind of advice didn't do O'Connor any good. He only had 40 minutes to go—at the most—before

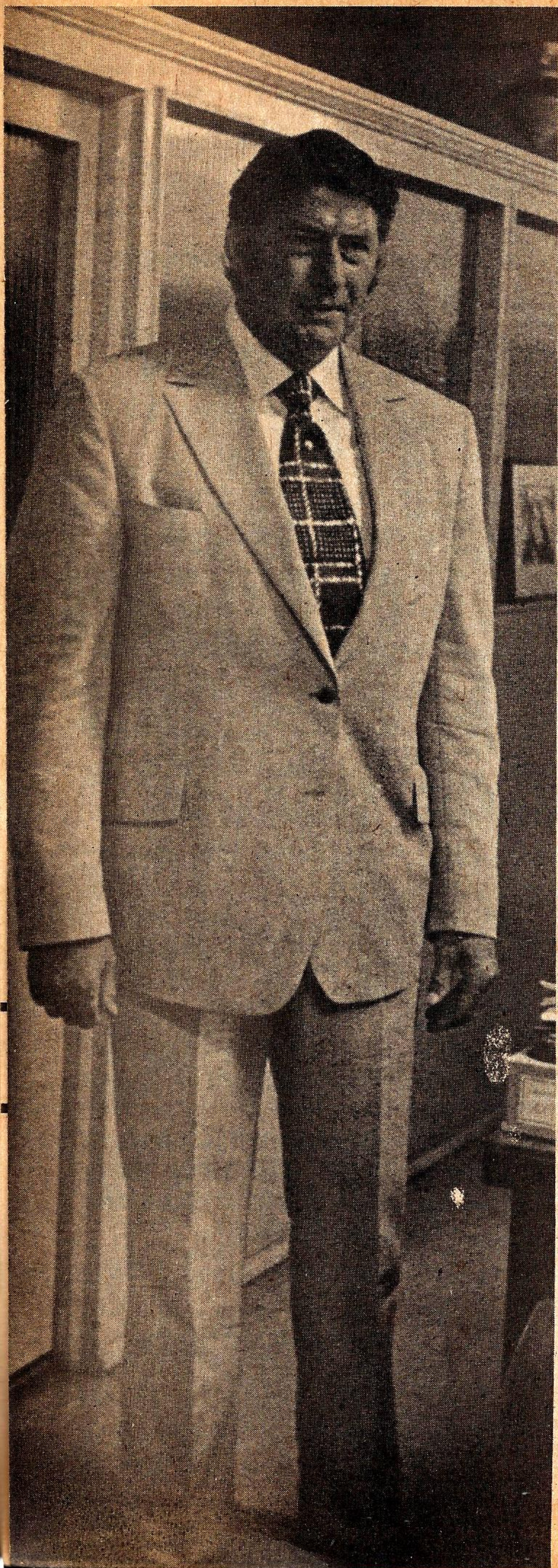
the call would come in, "O'Connor, you're on."

Back into his dressing room he went to continue his nervous pacing. His colleagues were friendly and soothing, but of little or no help.

All of a sudden, Chuck heard his door open.

"Oh no," he thought, "it's time al-

(Continued on page 48)



LORD ATHOL LAYTON



SPELL IT C-L-A-S-S

Lord Athol Layton doesn't have one enemy in the world. His poise, stature, rugged good looks, courtly bearing, good humor and engaging smile make him wrestling's most unique personality.

THERE ARE FEW wrestlers in the northern United States or Canada who have been as unreservedly loved as Lord Athol Layton. In the area around Toronto and Detroit, he is respected as both a wrestler and a broadcaster. Yet when he first came to Canada, Lord Layton was booed as no wrestler before him.

"In my first bout I was matched against Whipper Billy Watson," Lord Layton remembers, "and in Canadian wrestling that's like wrestling God himself. And after what I did to him, you would have bet that chances of my ever being liked by Canadian fans were less than zero."

What Layton did was lay Watson out with a single judo chop. Billy was forced to spend five days in the hospital recovering, and overnight Layton became the most unpopular man in Toronto.

Eventually, even the Torontonians forgave him, and he became as big a favorite as Watson. But it was in the capital city of Ottawa, which he considers "Canada's number one riot town," that Layton's name was splashed across the sports pages of all Canada.

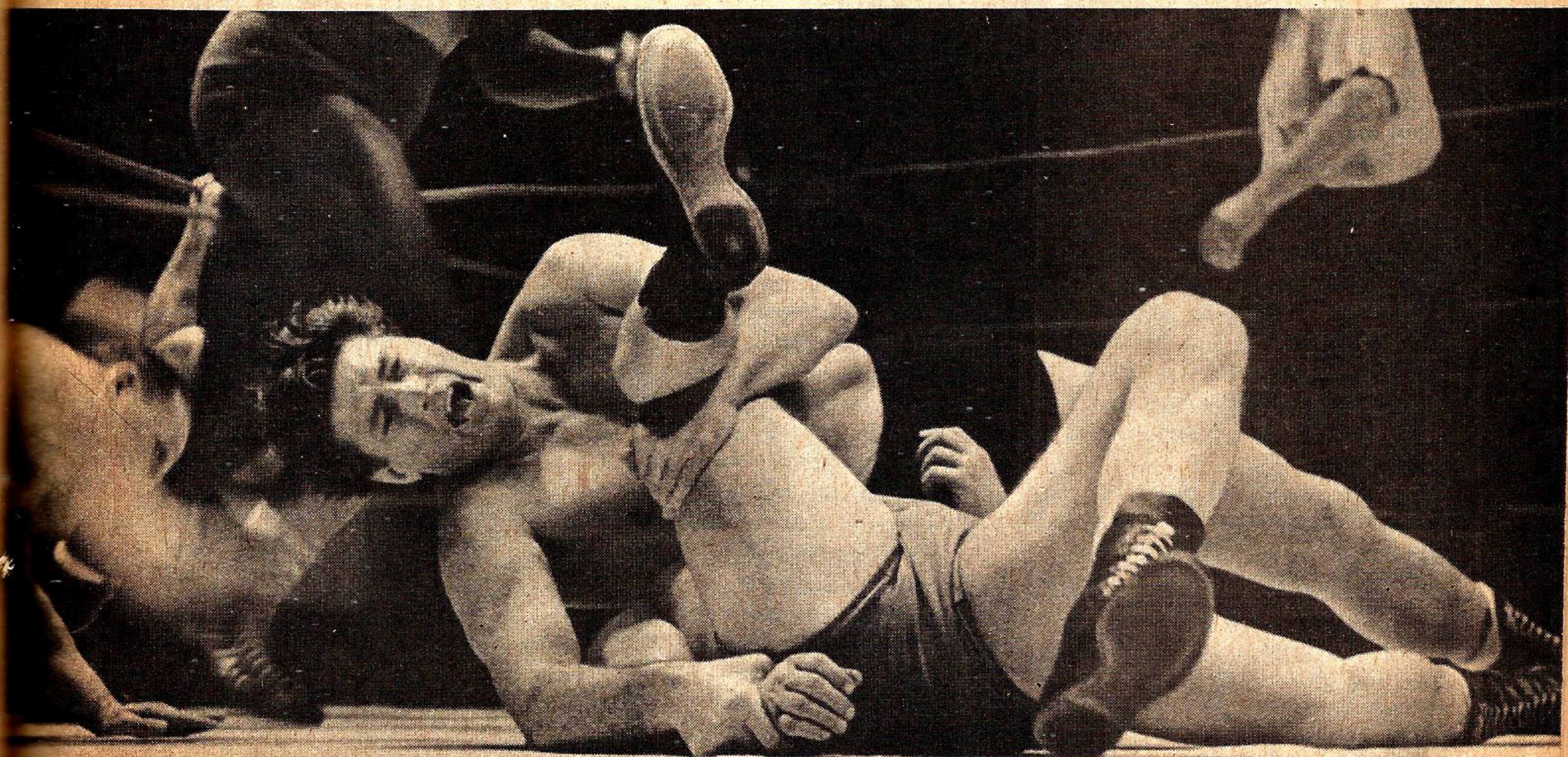
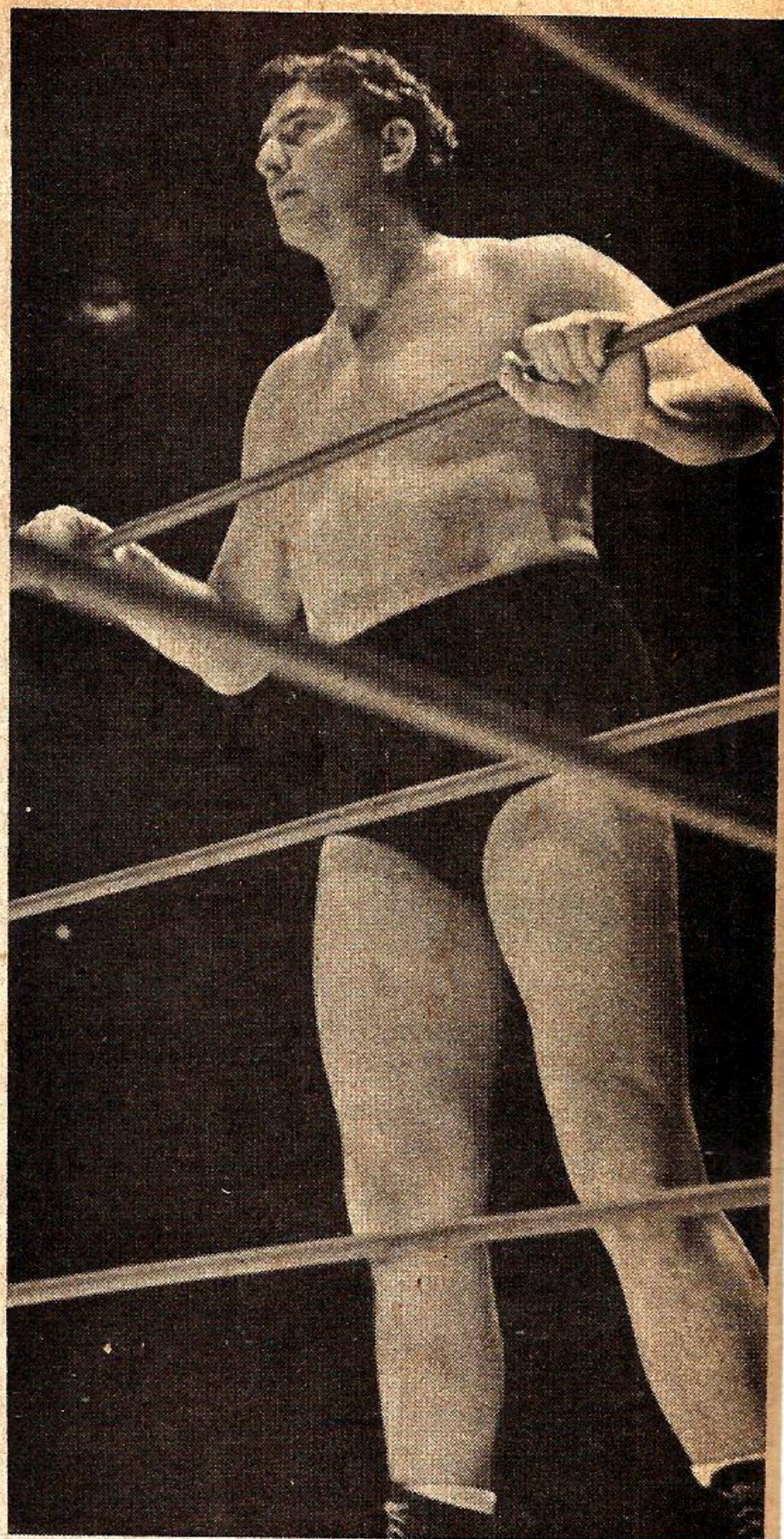
The Ottawa promoters liked to match English Canadians against French Canadians, and one night Layton found himself tangling with Yvon Robert, the idol of French

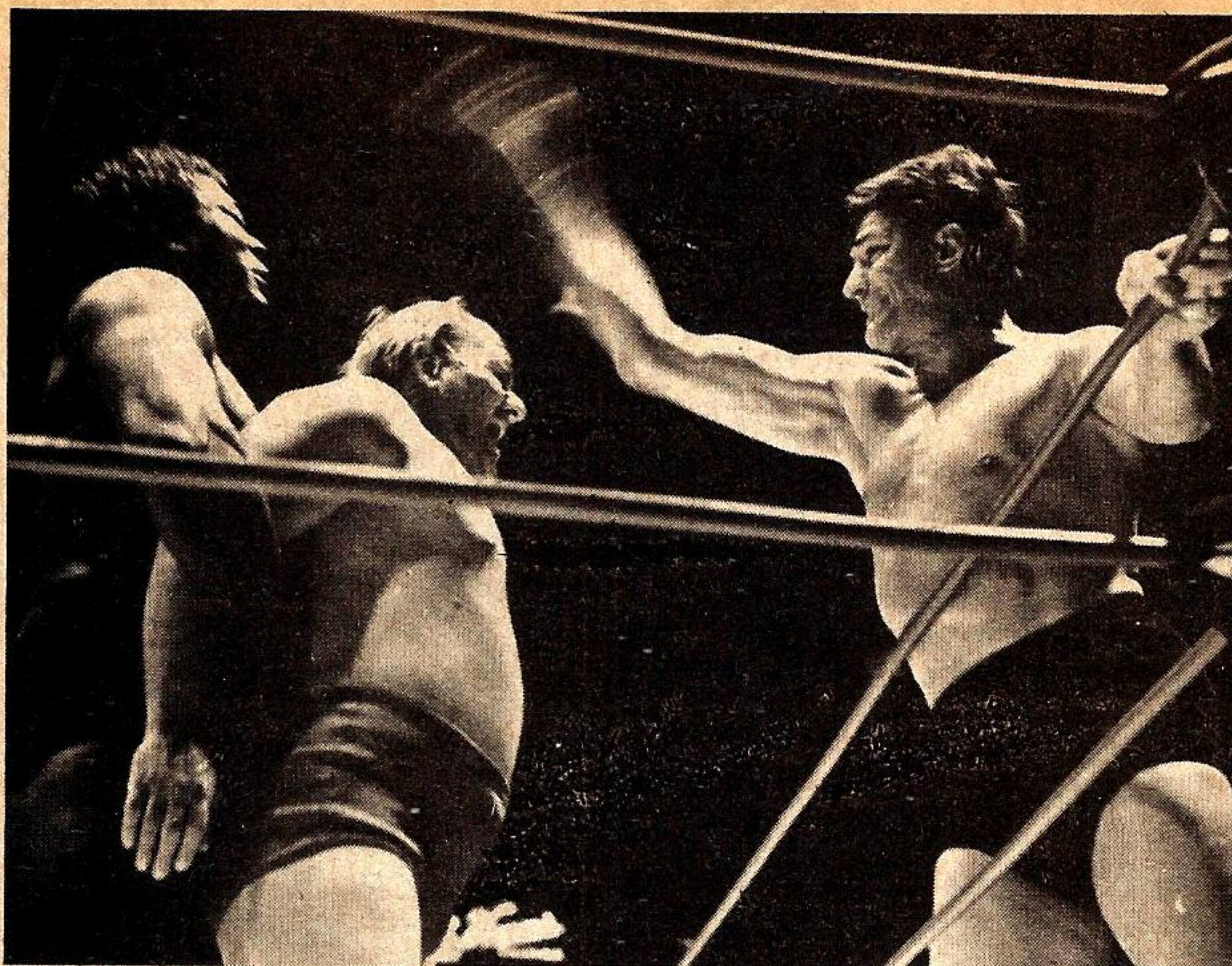
Canada. When the inevitable clash between fans developed, a full-scale war broke out and the French fans stormed the ring.

"Is there not one brave Englishman in the house?" Layton screamed out. Sure enough, one brave man started for the ring to protect the Lord. He never made it. But his diversionary tactic was enough to allow Layton to reach the safety of the dressing room. "I saw that chap an hour later," Layton laughingly recalled, "and he was still battling out there in the street."

An Australian, Lord Athol Layton began his athletic career as a professional boxer and won the Australian heavyweight title in 1944, chalk-ing up 19 first-round knockouts along the way. But after a World War II stint in the Aussie army, Layton decided his future was in professional wrestling. He received his opportunity by joining a troupe of wrestlers in Singapore—a city that gave him more than his share of excitement, the very commodity for which he had

A concerned Lord Layton looks on as partner Bobo Brazil gets worked over by Gallagher Bros. during 1963 bout (right). He clamps leglock on Mike Gallagher as Bobo keeps Doc away (below).





Brazil holds Doc Gallagher as Layton judo chops him. The chop is so fast and powerful it is only a blur despite the high-speed film photographer used. Brazil says he learned a lot by teaming with Lord Layton.

been searching.

It was while in Singapore he learned of the death of an uncle who had left him a castle and estate in England. He was now a Lord. But when he arrived in England, he also learned that back taxes and other debts more than wiped out the estate and his inheritance, and all he had was the title.

After traveling throughout the Far East gaining wrestling experience, Lord Layton arrived in Canada and the fateful bout with Watson. As his reputation grew, Lord James Blears, a World War II hero wrestling in Buffalo, heard about him. It was a natural that the two would join. When they did, the combination of Lord Blears and Lord Layton became one of the most colorful and talented tag-teams ever. In 1953, they won the British Empire Tag Team Championship, as well as the Canadian Open Tag Team title. On the west coast, they won the International TV Tag Team crown from Wilbur Snyder and Bobo Brazil, and topped it all off by winning the world title in Chicago!

The courageous Lords met team after team and might have gone on forever had not fate intervened in Los Angeles. During a title defense, Lord Layton sustained a vicious thumb jab in the corner of his left eye. The optic nerve was badly bruised and there was internal hemorrhaging. A shadow began to form over the pupil. The shadow would increase, doctors told Layton, until total blindness would set in. He'd never wres-

tle again!

After one operation failed, Layton submitted to a second one. It was clearly a last ditch attempt, and a pretty hopeless one at that. The odds against his regaining his sight were 1,000 to one. But call it a miracle or whatever you prefer—his sight returned. Lord Layton would wrestle again!

And he did, gaining popularity wherever he appeared. He was voted the "Comeback of the Year" award by sportswriters, but when Blears

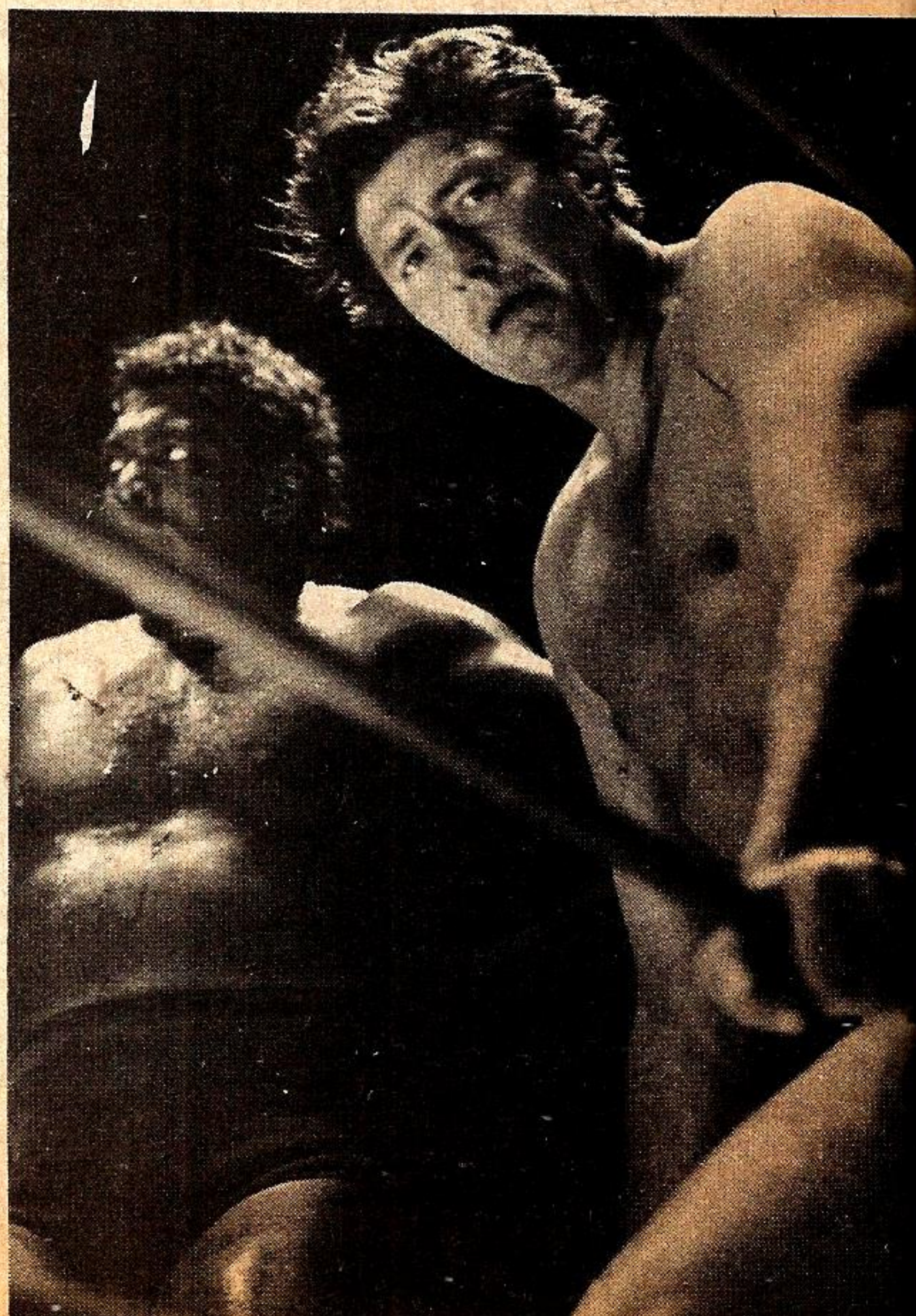
Layton and Brazil rest in the corner between falls. Lord Layton's title is a real one, inherited upon the death of an uncle. But when he went to England to claim his inheritance and castle, he found back taxes and debts had wiped everything out, and all that remained was his title. "He may be royalty," Bobo says, "but he's the most down to earth guy I've ever met. It's always a pleasure being with him."

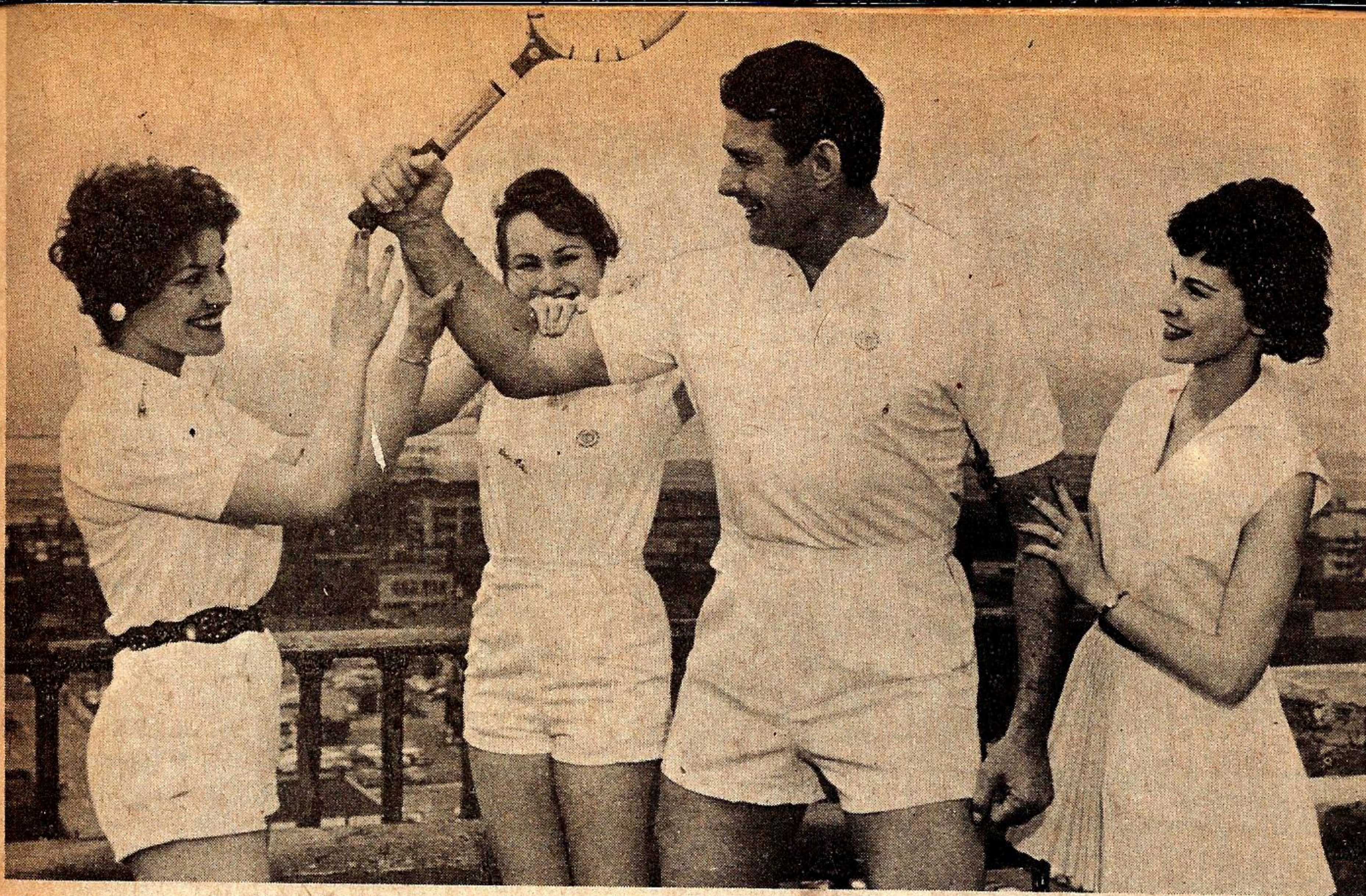
wanted to travel around the country and Layton wanted to stay close to the Buffalo-Toronto area, the team split up.

It was here that the well-mannered and well-spoken wrestler began a new career, that of sports commentator. Buffalo promoter Pedro Martinez handed Lord Layton the microphone for the Friday night bouts and a star was born.

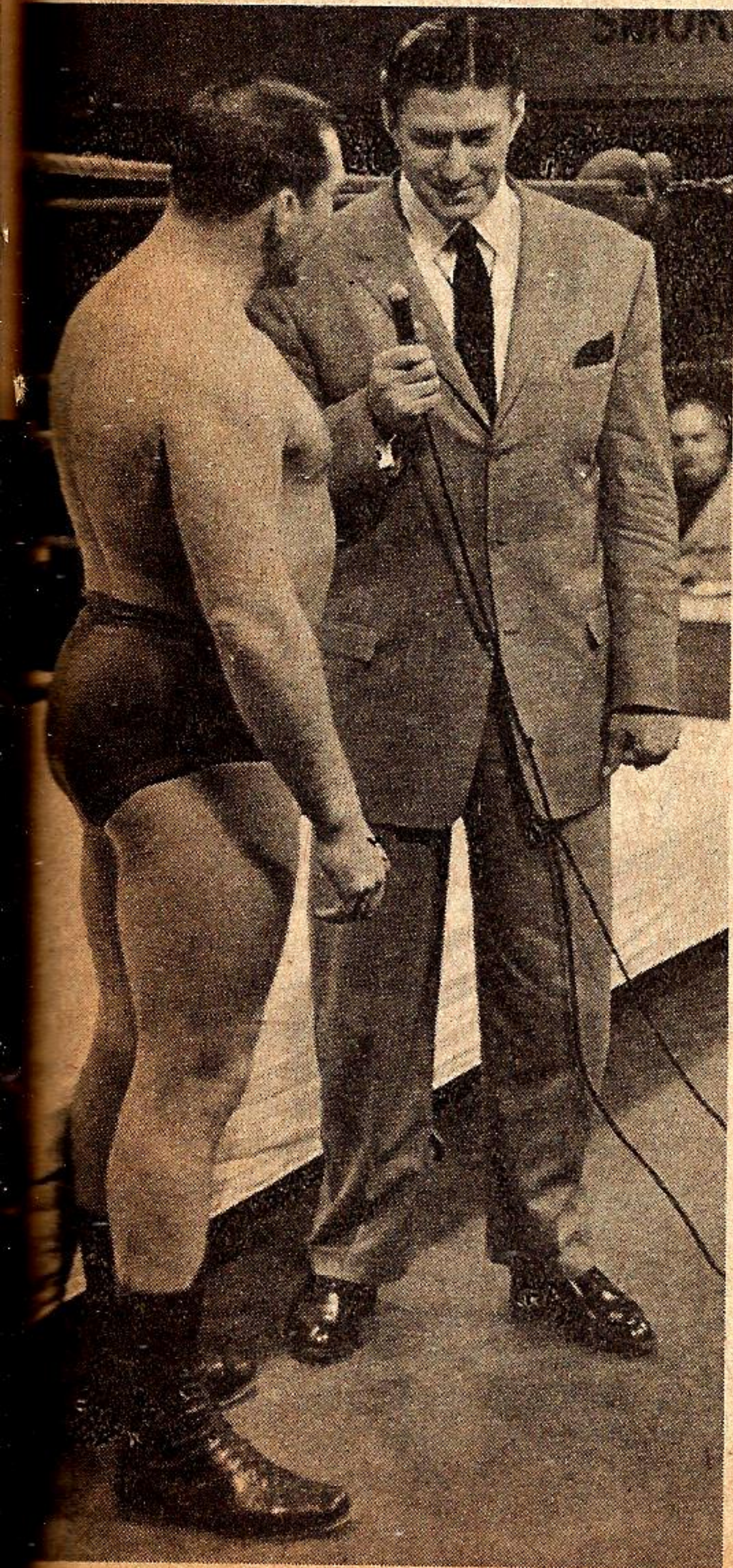
Layton was a different kind of announcer—one who had the courage of his convictions. If the match was boring or dull—he'd say so. He campaigned against the unorthodox antics of the villains and many took offense at his disparaging remarks. He raised so much hell over the microphone, the villains challenged him to return to the ring and put his money where his mouth was. The Lord obliged, as usual, and met and defeated them all, one by one by one.

Through it all, Layton displayed a quick sense of humor and gentlemanliness that became his trademarks. One anecdote that is always





Pretty tennis players admire Lord Layton's powerful forearm muscles (above). He's possibly the best tennis player among the wrestlers. Left: Layton interviews Karl Gotch on his television program. The Lord has successfully combined the two careers he loves most.



retold whenever wrestlers discuss Lord Layton is his reply when an interviewer asked him if he bore any grudge against the man who blinded him by sticking a thumb in his eye.

"That chap got exactly what he deserved," Athol quipped. "He married a lady wrestler!"

Still combining a wrestling and announcing career, Layton's popularity is such it rivals that of Whipper Billy Watson—Canada's favorite son. He spends innumerable hours lecturing before youth groups and is a sought-after speaker by school and community groups. Non-wrestling fans are stunned when they hear him speak. "I never knew the sport had such gentlemen," one lady said.

From the dingy rings of Singapore to the heights of world champion to the dreaded fear of life-long blindness, Lord Athol Layton's career has been a series of mountains and val-

leys. Yet through the good times and bad, he has never changed his optimistic view of life, his outgoing personality or his friendliness towards all men. "He simply does not have an enemy in the world," said one old-time wrestler. "He's just the nicest guy the sport has ever had."

One day Lord Layton will retire. Even men who stand 6-6 and weigh 275 pounds with a body like steel get old. But he's even optimistic about that.

"There are a great many exceptional young wrestlers coming up," he noted, "and they're a new breed of wrestlers, college men. They're well-trained, smart, big and strong. They'll be taking over soon and I say more power to them. I'll be happy to stay at the microphone."

"I'll leave the ring with no regrets. I've had a very good life in wrestling. I've traveled, seen the world and met many fine people. I've had my chance and it's only fair to give the others theirs. When the time comes I'll wish them the best of luck."

When he does call it quits, wrestling will lose one of its truly distinguished personalities. Few wrestlers have ever combined the poise, stature, rugged good looks, courtly bearing, good humor and engaging smile this man has. Lord Athol Layton gives wrestling one important commodity it often lacks.

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INDIAN WRESTLERS

(Continued from Page 23)

They feel the same about White Owl. At Whatever arena he appears in, you can see a throng of fans all around him. And he likes it so much, sometimes he'll stand for an hour signing autographs!



A traditional headdress similar to the ones worn by most Indian wrestlers. This one represents the Oglala Sioux confederation.

"It's the fans that made me what I am today," he smiled. "If you're not nice to them they'll stop buying tickets and you'll be a preliminary wrestler in no time."

Two other Indian wrestlers with strong local followings are Billy Two Rivers and Chief War Eagle. They restrict most of their action to the Grand Prix territory.

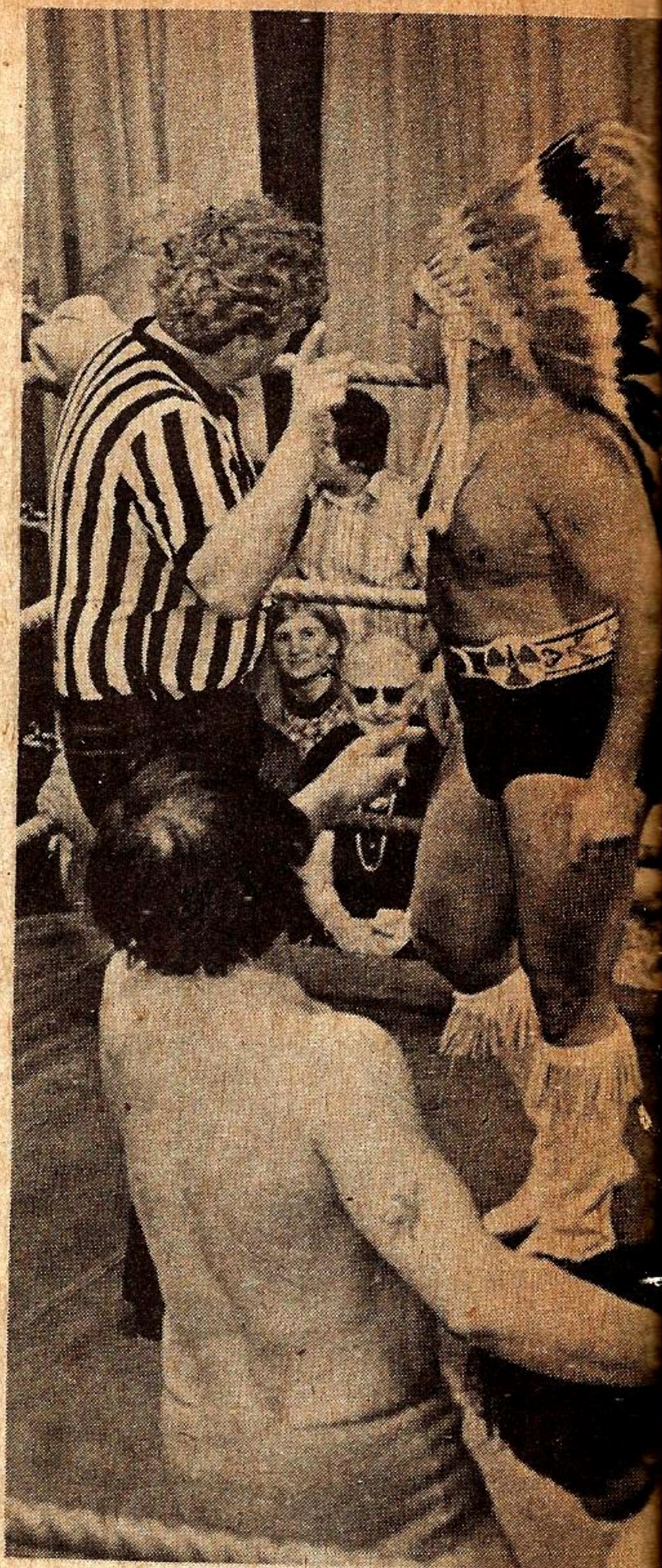
Unlike White Owl, Billy and War Eagle don't want to win any titles.

"Heck no," Two Rivers exclaimed. "Keep titles away from me. I like to wrestle whenever I feel like and if you have a title you're contracted to defend it at certain times by order of the federation you're wrestling for. I don't like to travel all that much. I'm content to stay in the Canadian areas. A title could make me defend my laurels elsewhere and I don't want that."

"Me either," added War Eagle. "Our families are in Canada and we're very content. Traveling is out."

War Eagle and Two Rivers are as close as real brothers.

"We're blood brothers," Billy said. "We became blood brothers after War Eagle got revenge for me in a match."



The referee warns Wahoo McDaniel to not lose his cool and stay within the rules after he wiped out two opponents—before the bell!

"I was sneak attacked by the Vachon brothers and wound up in the hospital. A week or two later, War Eagle took them on in a handicap match and slaughtered them. Then, in the hospital, we swapped blood. That's how it happened."

Since then they're inseparable. They wrestle as a tag team as often as they can and they never take tag team title matches. They'll wrestle the champs only in non-title matches.

Well, there they are, some of the great Indian wrestlers. As long as men like Strongbow, McDaniel, Red Cloud, Bold Eagle, Two Rivers and War Eagle are around, you can be assured of exciting action—all the time!

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MAIL BAG

(Continued from Page 8)

Coast by his tirades and insults. I hope—but doubt—he shut up the Gargantuan Mouth, the Tarnished Greek, for good!

ROBBY STEINGART
Modesto, Calif.

DEATH'S DOMINION

The article, "Death! The Fourth Man in the Ring" (SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING/November '74) was sad and terrifying. To read of such magnificent men whose lives were extinguished while they participated in the sport they loved made me cry for hours.

I remember Alberto Torres very well, an exciting and great wrestler. I was there the night Torres died. He was brilliant as usual until the Claw managed to get a lucky break. It still seems strange to realize Alberto will never wrestle again. He will be remembered by fans for many years to come.

It is articles like this, and memories like this, which make you realize how brave wrestlers truly are.

DONNA SWIVIT
White Plains, N.Y.

COMPASSION FOR BERNARD

I, like many other wrestling fans, have long booed Brute Bernard every time he steps into the arena. After reading "Stop Him Before He Kills Somebody!" (SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING/November '74), I don't know if I ever will again.

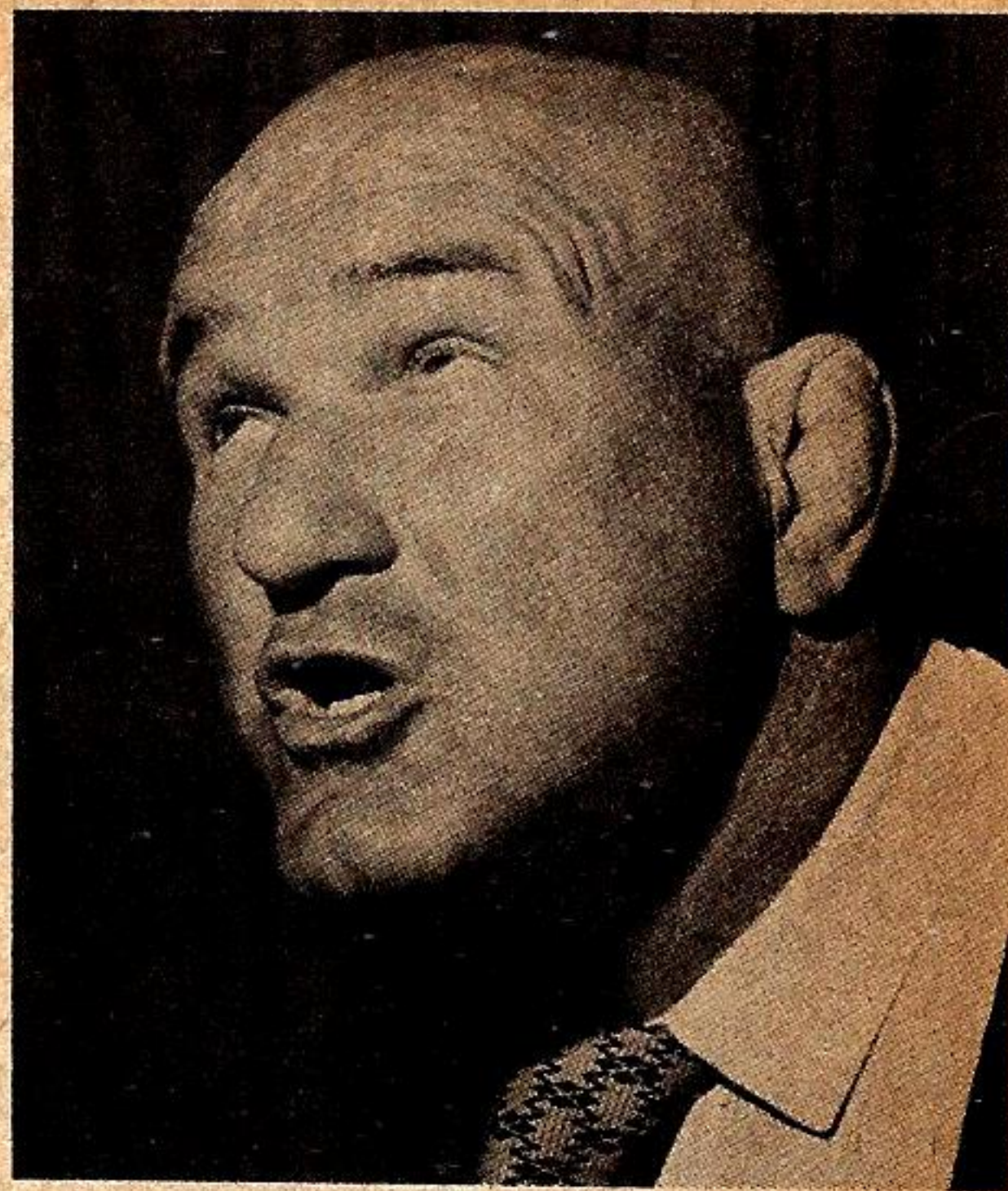
The horror of Bernard's childhood is more than ample reason for his twisted outlook on life. The insensitivity against which the poor man has had to contend is one of the saddest stories I have ever read.

Perhaps we are all responsible for the Brute Bernards of this world.

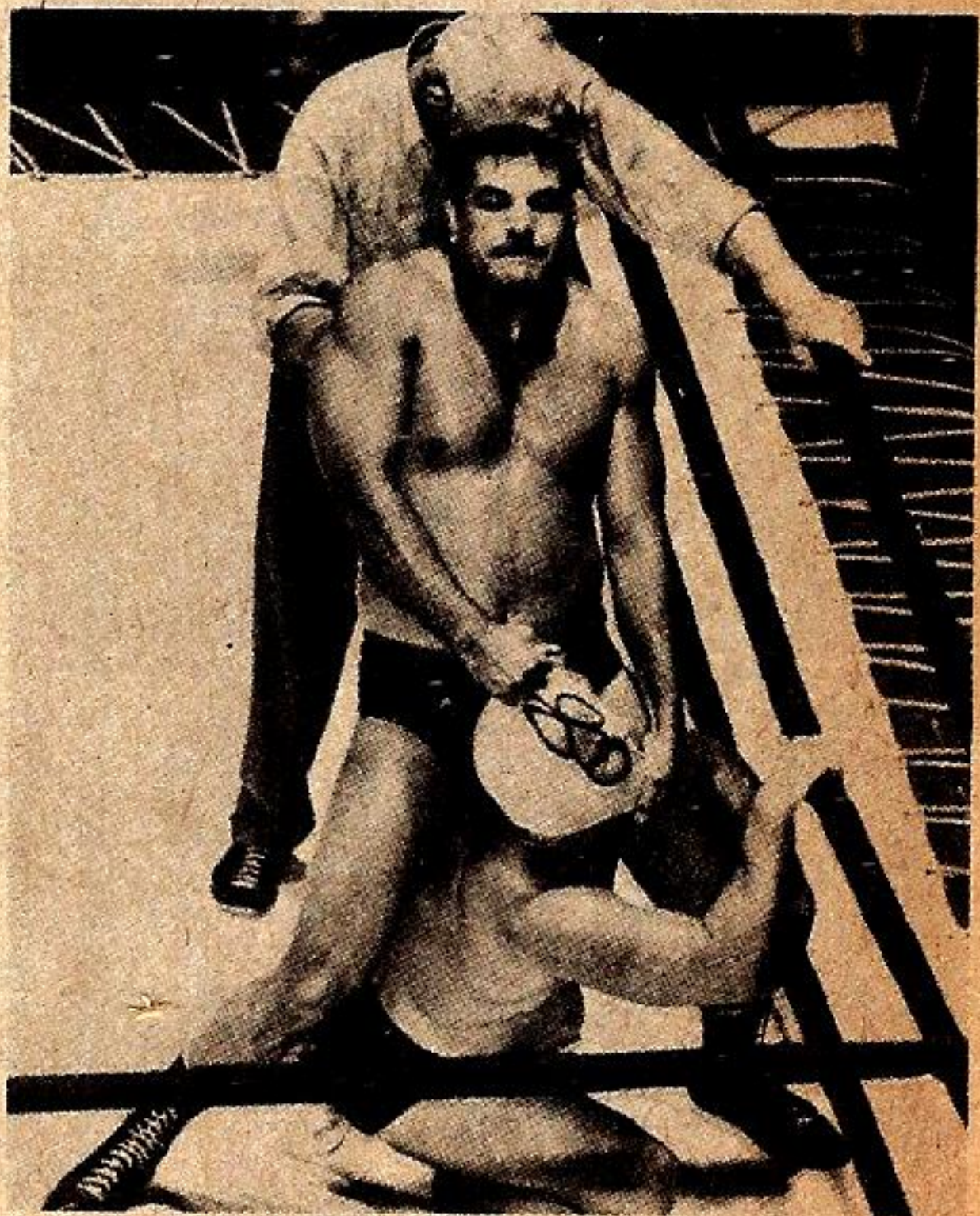
ANNE ESPOSITO
Knoxville, Tenn.

BEHIND THE SCENES

I'm delighted you people finally found time to honor the man behind the scenes, the man who makes the East Coast the mecca for all great wrestlers — Vince McMahon (SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING/November '74).



One reader asks for compassion for Brute Bernard (above) while another sadly remembers Alberto Torres, a ring casualty (below).



Few fans realize the work, the sacrifice, the dedication it takes to coordinate different wrestlers with various skills into one great program. McMahon goes through this endlessly, his reward the cheers of excited fans.

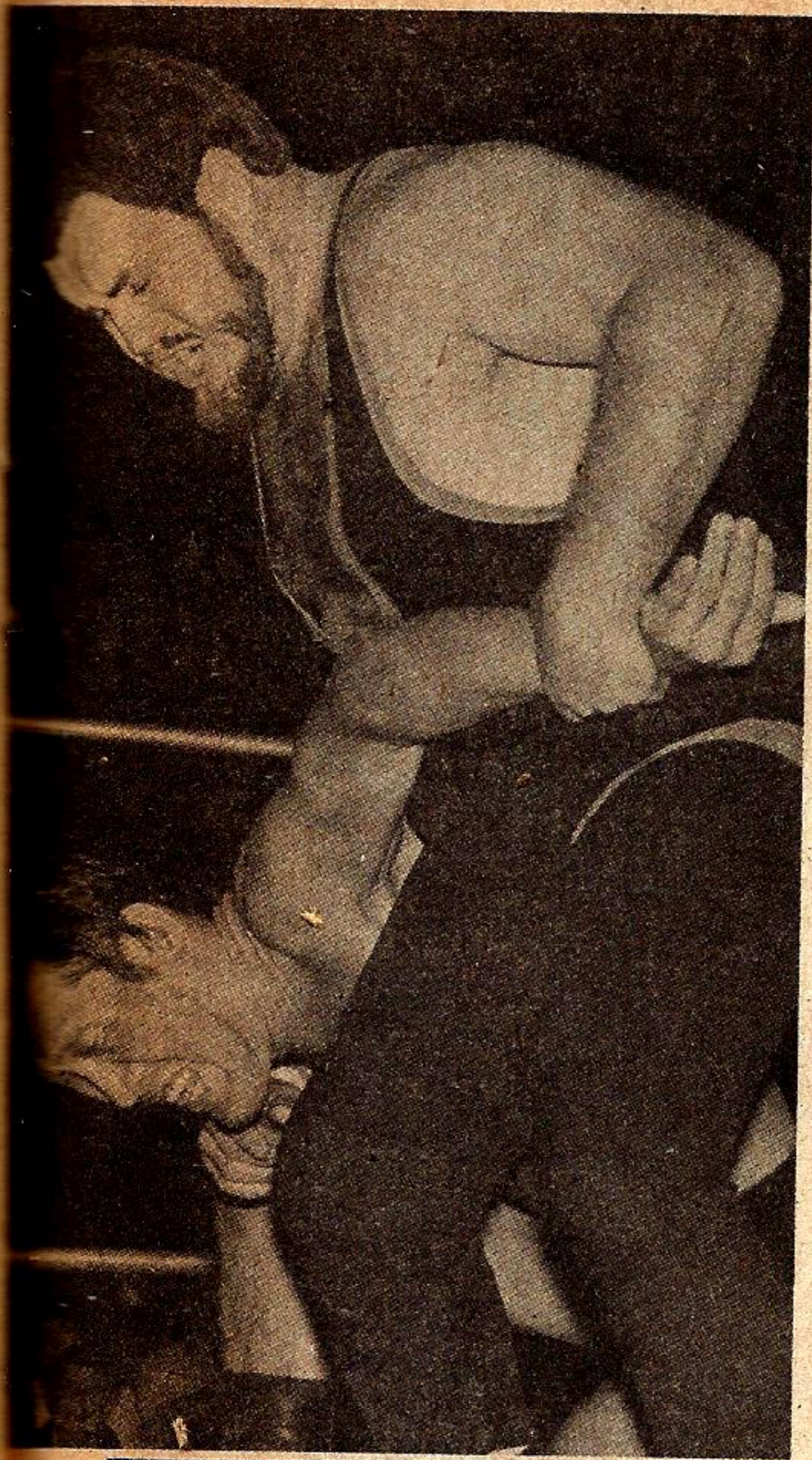
Wrestling fans owe Vince McMahon a debt they can never repay.

PETER DADUCCI
Brooklyn, N.Y.

FRIENDS FOREVER

"Even Dory Jr. Is Puzzled By The 'New' Mr. Wrestling II" (SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING/November '74) showed perfectly how the real values in life will always prove the strongest in the end.

When the chips were down, the two men's friendship was more important than anything else. That's



One reader hopes that wrestlers like Pak Song will be able to get Butcher Brannigan before he cripples someone else. However, Pak Song, like many others, has his troubles with Brannigan.

something people tend to ignore when they lust for something as great as a championship. Winning can never be as important as having friends.

The lesson Mr. Wrestling II learned is a lesson we can all benefit from. Hopefully, it is one we will never forget.

HERMAN BERRIGAN
Milwaukee, Wisc.

BRANNIGAN WATCHER

I was one of the thousands in Los Angeles who a few months ago had never heard of Butcher Brannigan. Well, everyone in the state has been given a hell of an education since then.

What we didn't need was someone like Brannigan, whose style is that of a very clever brawler cursed with a killer instinct. No scientific

wrestler is safe when Brannigan is in the arena.

Butcher Brannigan is the dirtiest wrestler I've ever seen and that's saying something! I only hope someone gets him before he cripples someone else!

LESLIE NORTH
Yorba Linda, Calif.

WORD OF THANKS

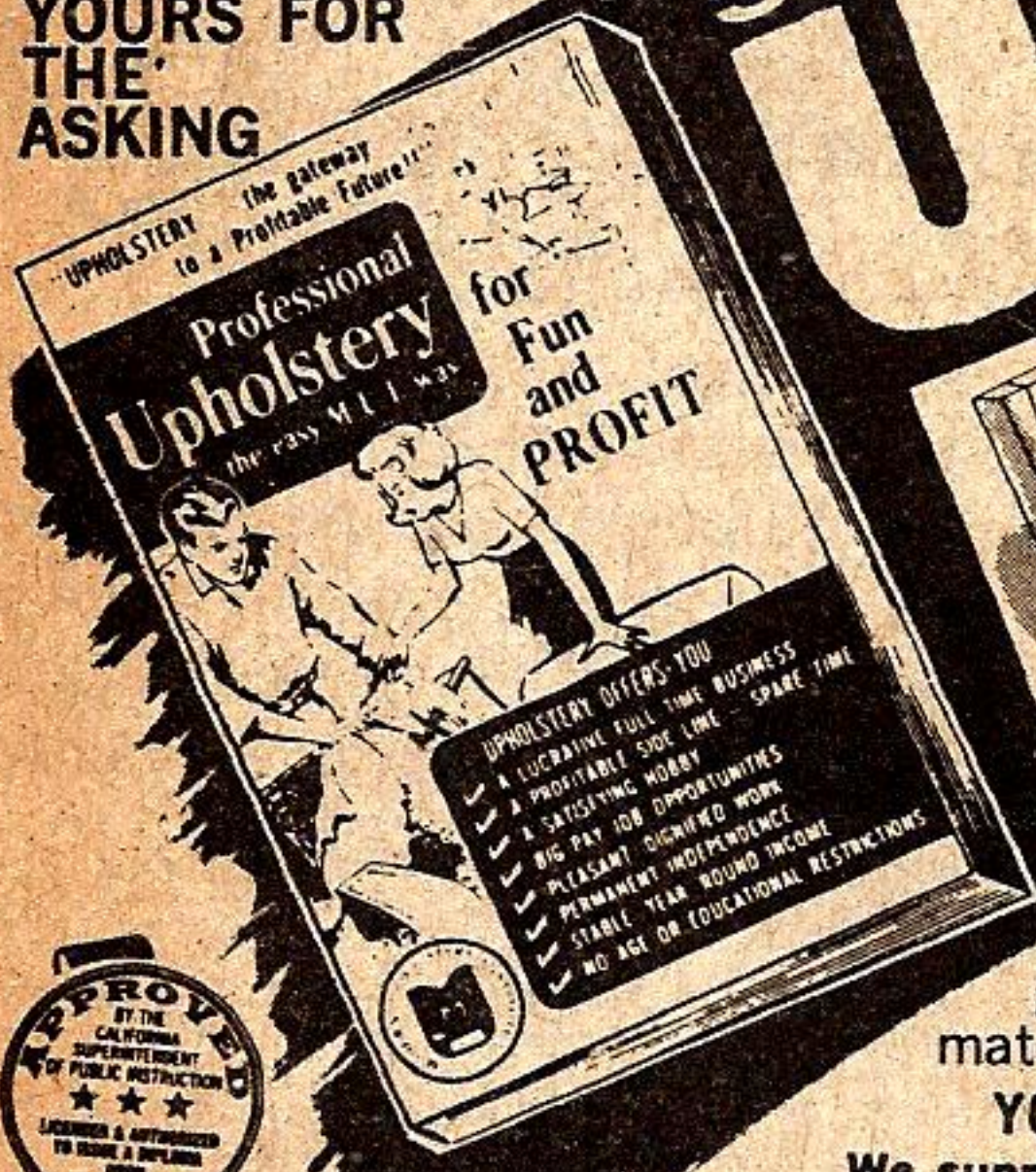
I feel it is time to thank the wonderful people of SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING for all the wonderful things they have done for apartment house wrestling. The coverage your magazine has given us has made apartment house wrestling the fastest growing amateur sport in the USA.

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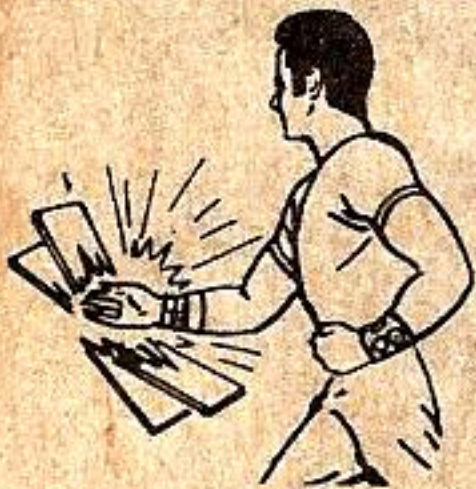
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THE SECRET WEAPON (Continued from Page 39)



Chuck O'Connor gets Haystacks ready for the atomic skull-crusher (left), which will send Calhoun crumpling to the mat. The hold was taught to Chuck by Johnny Valentine, who uses it well against The Sheik.



ready. Oh well, I'll just go out there and give it my best."

"Hi, Chuck," said the voice. "Just came by to wish you and the other guys luck. I'll be out there watching you."

O'Connor looked up and saw Johnny Valentine. A light flashed in his head.

"Johnny, you're just the guy I need now. I've gotta wrestle Haystacks Calhoun and can't figure out how to bring him down. If you could teach me your atomic skullcrusher I'd be deeply indebted to you."

"Well, I don't know," said Johnny. "You just don't throw a skullcrusher around. It's a highly skilled blow that takes time to teach."

He saw the anxiety in O'Connor's eyes and said, "Oh, all right, but listen to everything I tell you." O'Connor was overjoyed at the opportunity.

Sooner than expected came the knock on the door and the voice yelling, "Come on O'Connor, get ready, you're next."

Calhoun was having fun knocking O'Connor down again and again throughout the match, but with his supreme physical conditioning, O'Connor was able to make Calhoun expend much of his energy to achieve each knockdown.

O'Connor used the ropes to his advantage, for every time Calhoun would fling him into them, Chuck would come flying off in a direction away from Calhoun. Slowly but surely, the big guy's shoulders began to droop from exhaustion.

Valentine, sitting at ringside, looked up at O'Connor and nodded positively. It was the right time to use the skullcrusher.

Was Valentine a good teacher? Was O'Connor a good student? The answer was a short time away.

O'Connor backed into a corner as Calhoun stalked him. Johnny feigned terror.

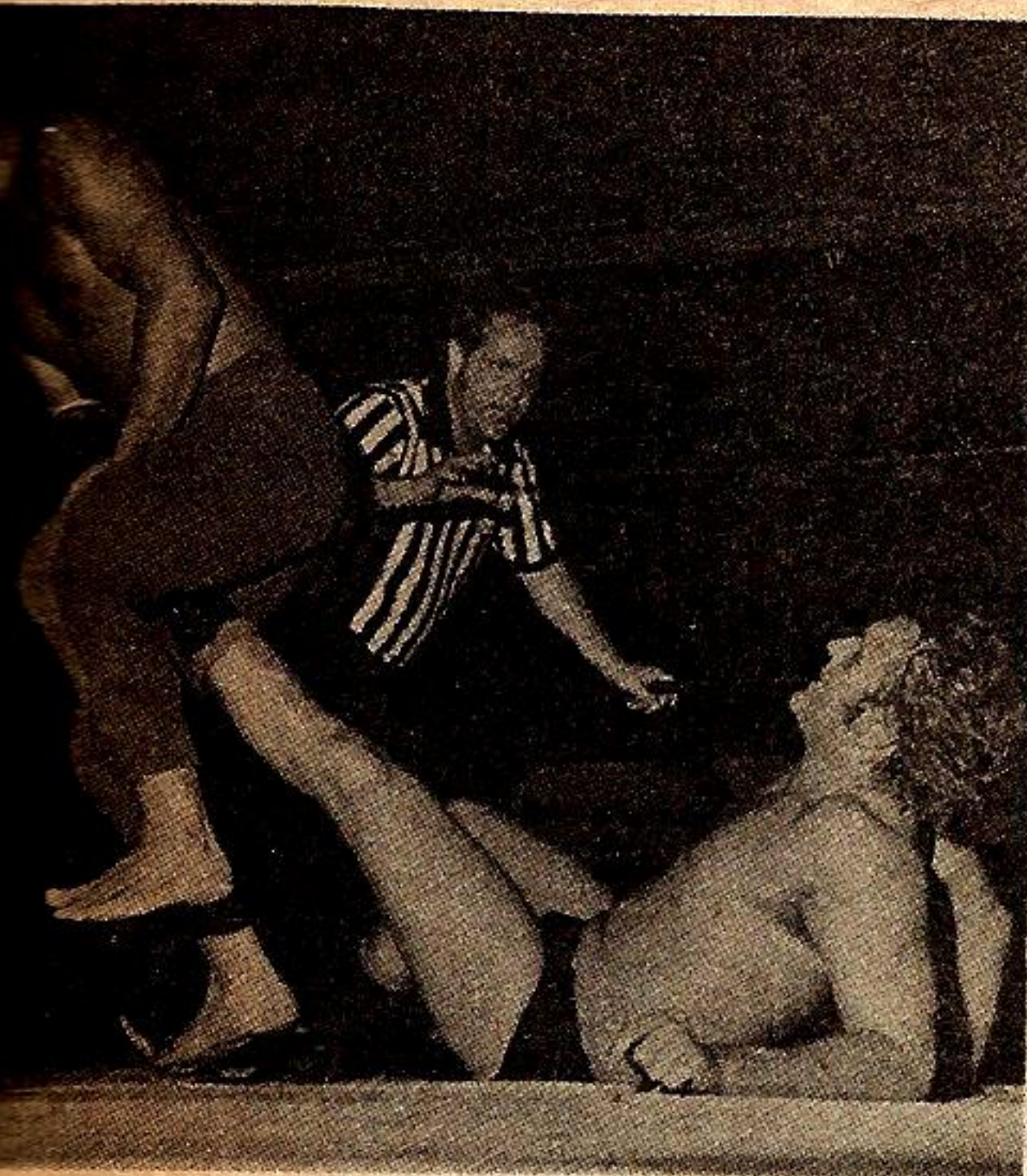
"Please Haystacks, don't crush me! Don't hit me, please!"

O'Connor waited until Calhoun was about four feet away, then went into action, hoping for the best. Using the bottom rope for a springboard, he pushed off it, high into the air. Before Haystacks could defend himself, Chuck grabbed Calhoun's hair with his left hand, pulled his head down, and applied the skullcrusher with his right elbow.

For a second, nothing happened. Chuck stood motionless. Then, in slow motion, Calhoun headed for the canvas with a mighty crash. O'Connor jumped around in absolute glee with the knowledge he had become one of the few men ever to put Haystacks Calhoun down!

LET'S BUST HIS LEG!

(Continued from Page 38)



Mr. Ota, who claims he's a real expert at busting bones, goes all out to prove his point and tries to make big Ed Wiskowski's leg crack under a painful leglock.

participate. He began kicking Ed's thigh muscle. Though the pain was excruciating, Ota had to release his hold so White could get a clearer target.

It also gave Ed's partner, Nelson Royal, a chance to get in on the action. Nelson flattened White with a flying body block and then went after Ota. The two began to pound each other into oblivion.

Finally, the referee disqualified both teams and the raging brawl was broken up. Royal and Wiskowski got in a few good licks before the two teams were herded off to their separate dressing rooms.

In the dressing room, while the doctor taped up his leg, Ed's relief had turned to boiling anger.

"They could have ended my career!" Ed shouted, "just to make a name for themselves. There's no excuse for that. None whatsoever. Those two guys are berserk animals!"

Royal indignantly added, "It's guys like that who make me seriously consider banning some people. Those guys do nothing for the sport and everything to hurt it."

Later, Wiskowski admitted, "There is something I can thank them for, though. Every time I walk I'll remember to notice how great it feels. When you come close to never being able to walk correctly again, you certainly appreciate what a wonderful gift it is!" □

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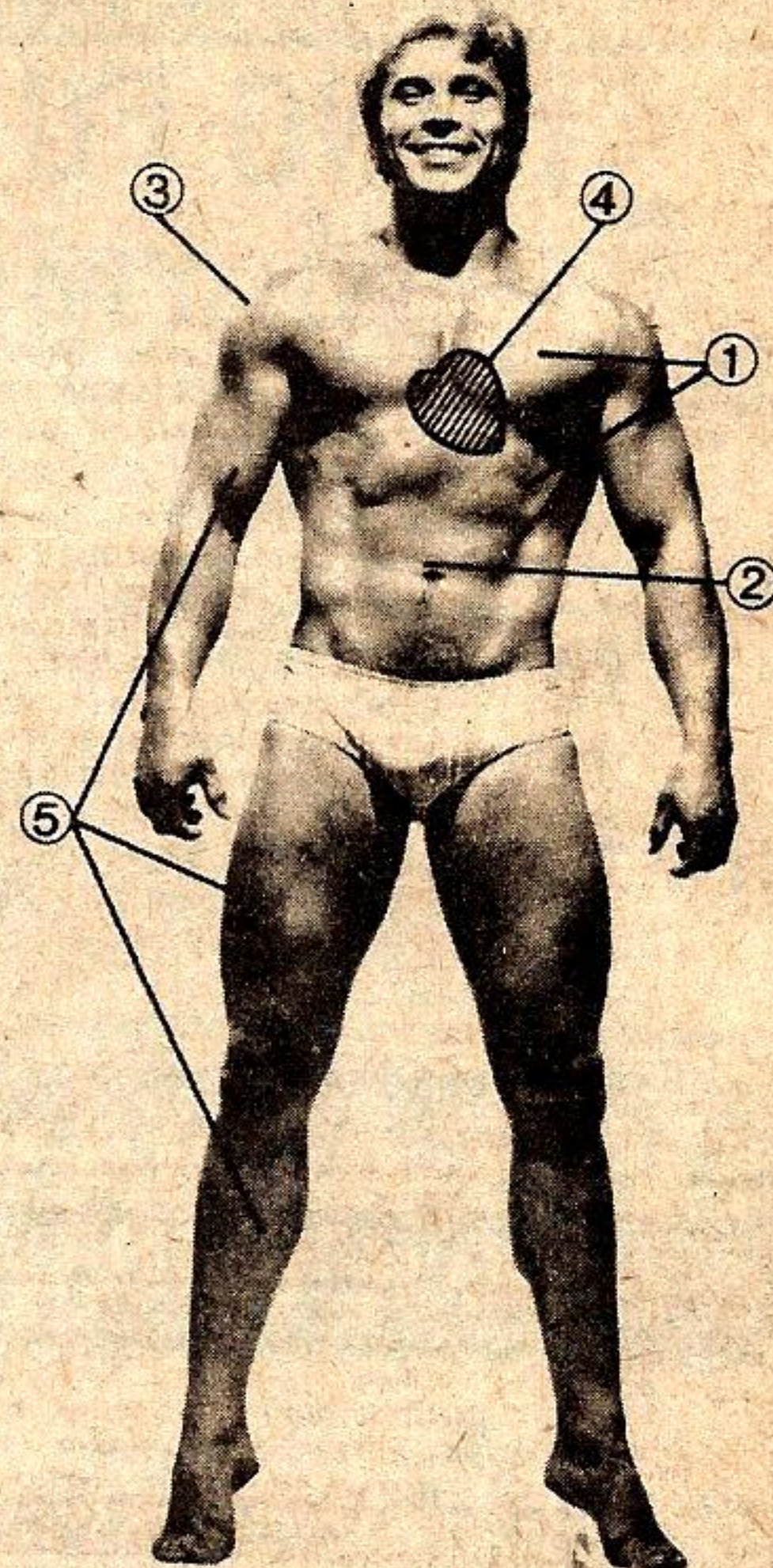
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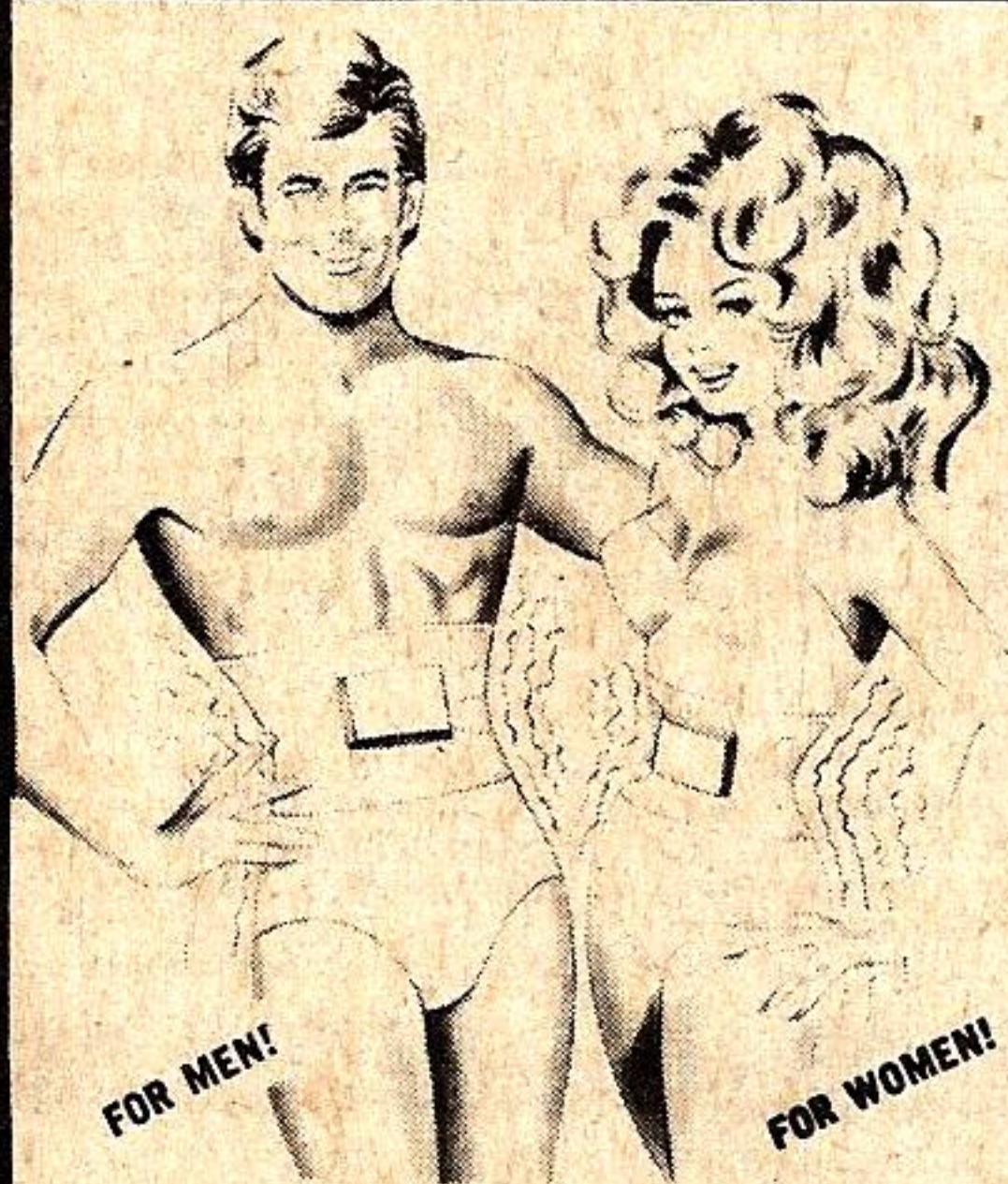
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WOMAN WRESTLER

(Continued from Page 18)



"THE ROAD BEGINS TO WEAR THEM DOWN. YOU CAN SEE IT IN THE GLAZED, TIRED LOOK IN THEIR EYES. THEIR COMPLEXIONS GROW SALLOW. THEY CAN NO LONGER CONCENTRATE ON WRESTLING. ALL THEY CAN THINK OF IS THE DEADLY ROUTINE OF TRAVELING, SLEEPING ALONE IN ANOTHER UGLY MOTEL ROOM WITH HIGHWAY TRAFFIC KEEPING THEM UP ALL NIGHT."

Life on the road is hard for anyone. For a woman it's especially difficult. It's also the biggest drawback to becoming a professional wrestler.

"When I see young girls who say they can't take it," Betty says, "I know they're not talking about the roughness of the matches. Any girl attracted to the sport enjoys that kind of activity. The daily workouts are rigorous, but again, we've learned to love that tired feeling following a really good session of exercises. No, with few exceptions, those aren't the reasons the ones who begin a professional career drop out. Not at all.

"You can tell when they're going to leave about a month before they even know it. I've seen it many times by now. The road begins to wear them down. You can see it in the glazed, tired look in their eyes. Their com-



plexions grow sallow. They can no longer concentrate on wrestling. All they can think about is the deadly routine of traveling, sleeping alone in another ugly motel room with highway traffic keeping them up all night.

"They become terrified of having to travel, terrified of another night in a strange place. Soon it isn't worth



Betty proudly displays the championship belt which she won after many years of grappling.

it to them and they quit. It takes a lot of courage *outside* the arena to be a professional wrestler."

Yet Betty has conquered the agonies of life on the road and continues to wrestle all over the country. She hopes to be doing it for years to come.

"There are some wonderful things about traveling," Betty admits, "though they're the exception rather than the rule. There are a few cities where you can spend years and still enjoy it. And there are those relatively short periods of ecstasy when you're in the arena and wrestling. That feeling of power, especially when you're winning *big*, is when you know a professional wrestling career is the best of all possible worlds."

Betty concluded, "I wouldn't trade places with anyone in the world. Yet, I wonder how many people could stand trading places with me." □

Losing Your Hair?

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"My hair has improved. It used to fall out by handfuls. Comate stopped it from falling out."
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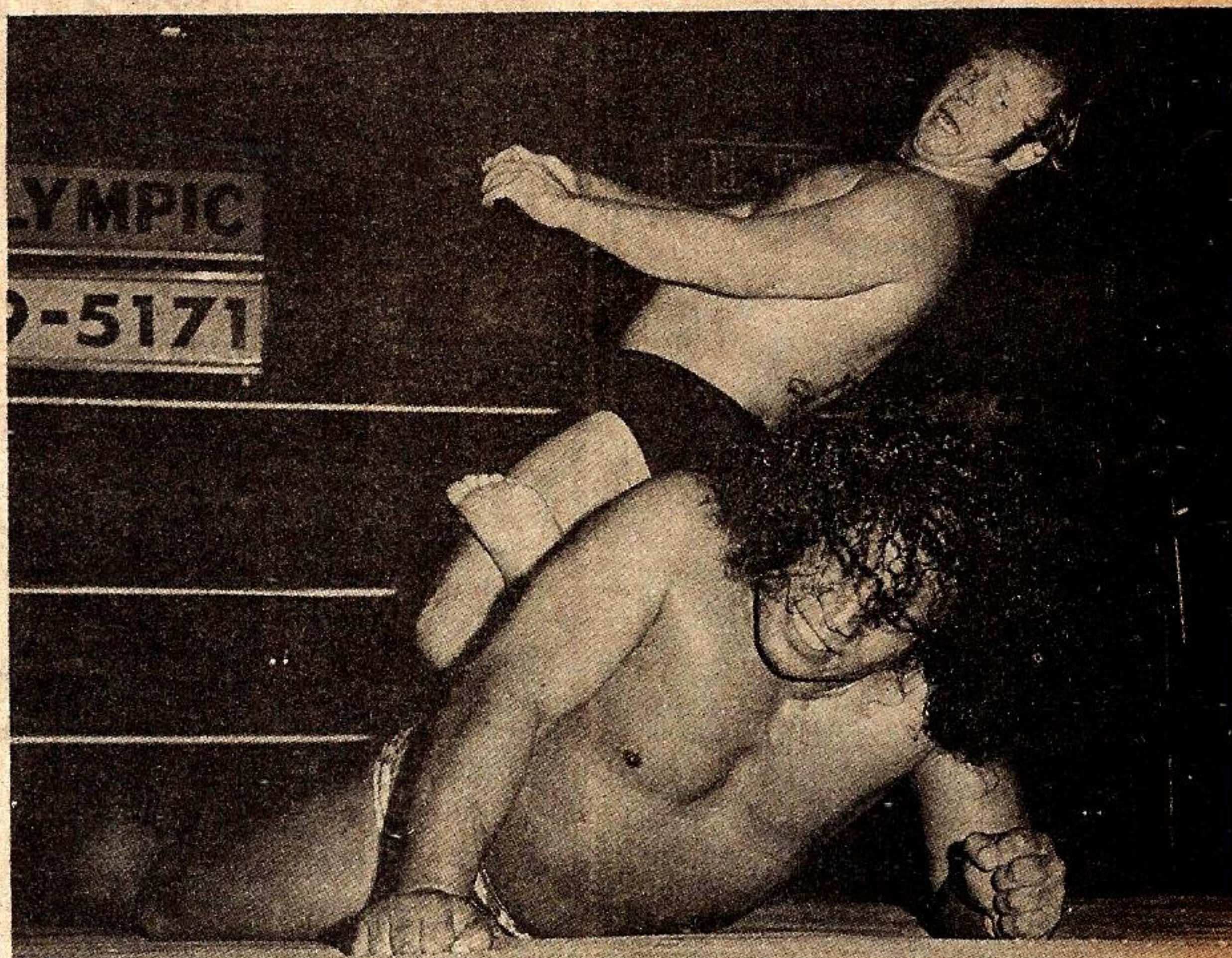
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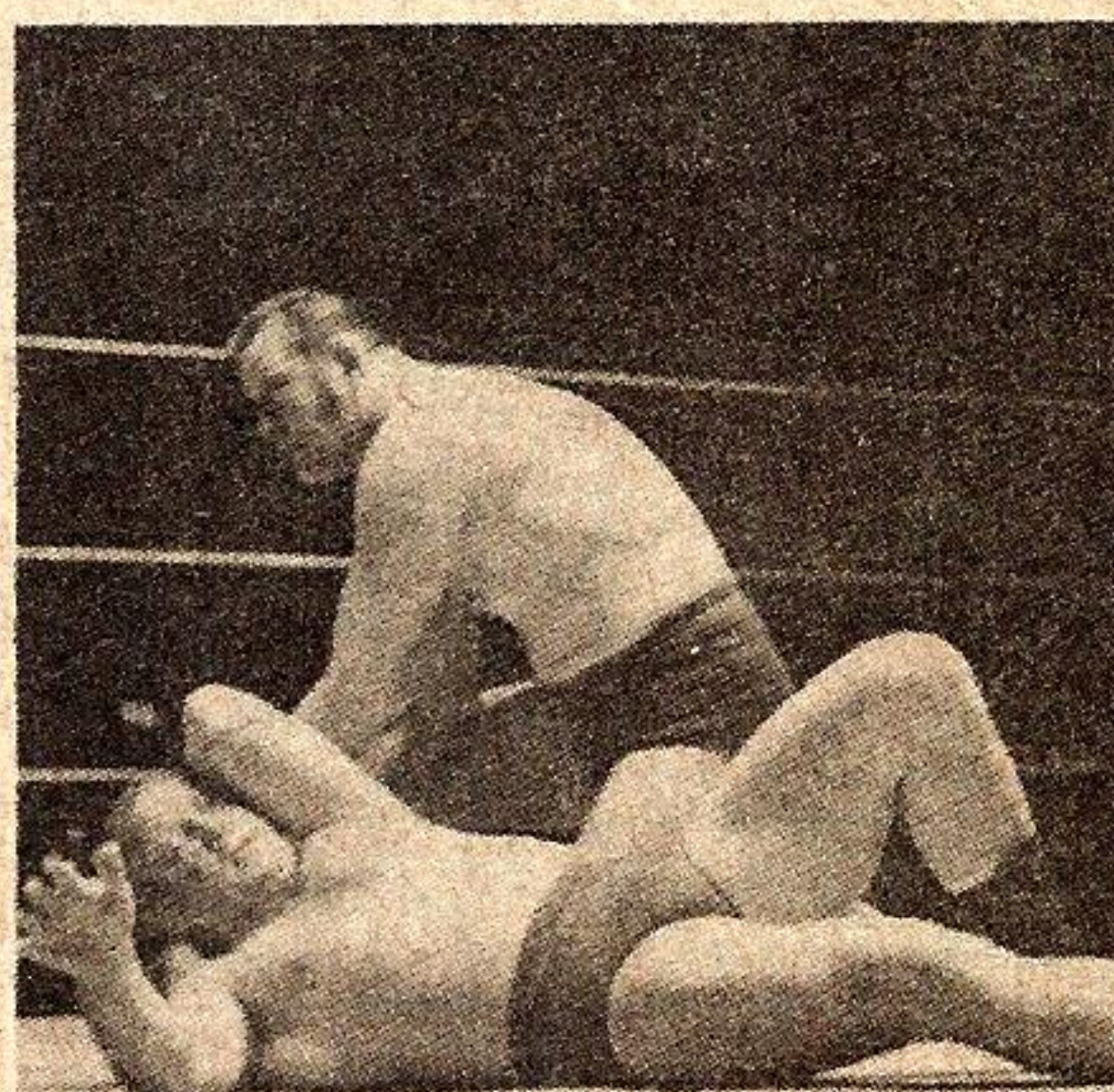
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NOW OR NEVER

(Continued from Page 25)



Dory shows his determination and skill against Peter Maivia (above). Against Gene Kiniski, Dory experiences a good deal of trouble (left), like all men do who wrestle Kiniski.



it was as if the floor suddenly turned to rubber and I couldn't keep my balance.

"It's a terrifying period when you don't know what's going to happen. It takes awhile before your confidence is back, before you begin to think of yourself again as championship material. For some, it takes only one tough victory. For others, they can never again think of themselves as a champion.

"Dory can again become champion. Will he become champion is another matter. I agree there is a championship rhythm. I don't know if Dory can regain it. There's no question that he's losing it. His loss of confidence isn't critical - yet."

Dory acknowledges he's in a

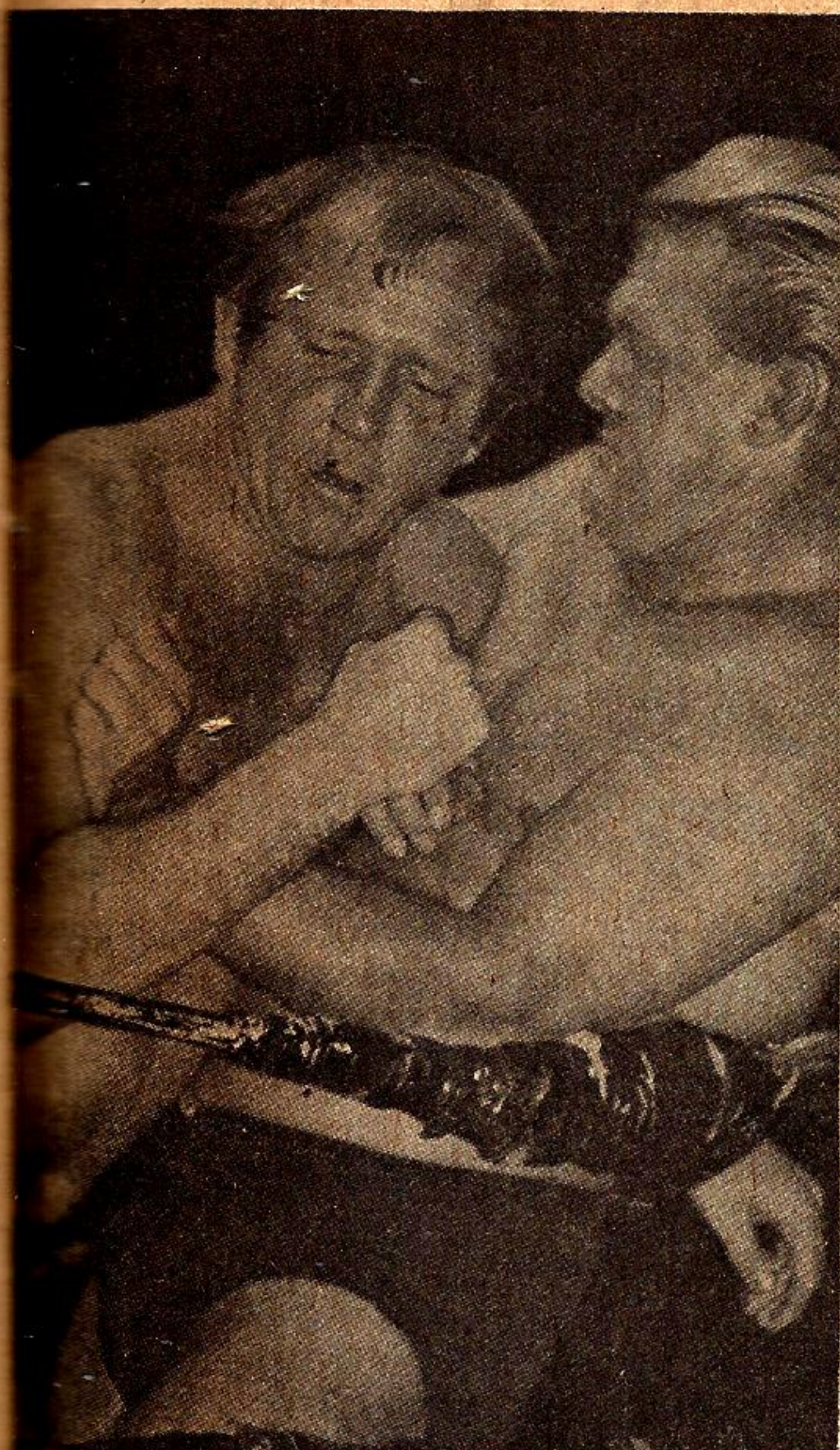
tense period of his life. He refuses, however, to admit his confidence is going.

"I still think of myself as a champion. As far as I'm concerned, Jack Brisco has the title on very temporary loan. Still, I feel uncomfortable walking down the aisle without the added weight of the belt. And I miss them not announcing me as champion. I miss it enough to want it back.

"People are always willing to say a former champion is washed up, that he's lost his stuff. They don't realize how much I want that belt! It was tough losing to Harley Race but I'm a professional. I know what has to be done.

"People are always saying such and such a time is critical. Of course I want the belt back as soon as possible. However, I'm not going to say something as stupid as if I don't get it back in the next 20 minutes I'll never be champion again. That's ridiculous.

"I am going to be champion again! That's a fact. Nobody is going to change that."



Dory and Johnny Valentine are locked in a fierce battle that will make Valentine believe Dory will regain the title.

The question being asked in many dressing rooms these days is whether or not Dory really believes what he says. Are they his true convictions, or brave talk by a man who can never again be champion?

Friends — and enemies — have been trying to draw conclusions from watching him wrestle in certain matches. When Dory recently wrestled Killer Krupp, many of the top wrestlers in the A.W.A. were on hand to study to Dory's moves, even trying to determine the future by the look on Dory's face when he was introduced to the crowd.

After the match, the wrestlers broke up into groups to discuss what they saw. Opinion, as always, was sharply divided. Some were positive Dory was back on the track, destined for a quick championship. Others saw the match as the beginning of the end for Dory Funk, Jr.

However, only time holds the real answer. Everyone will have to wait to determine if Dory Funk, Jr. is the once and future champion. ☐

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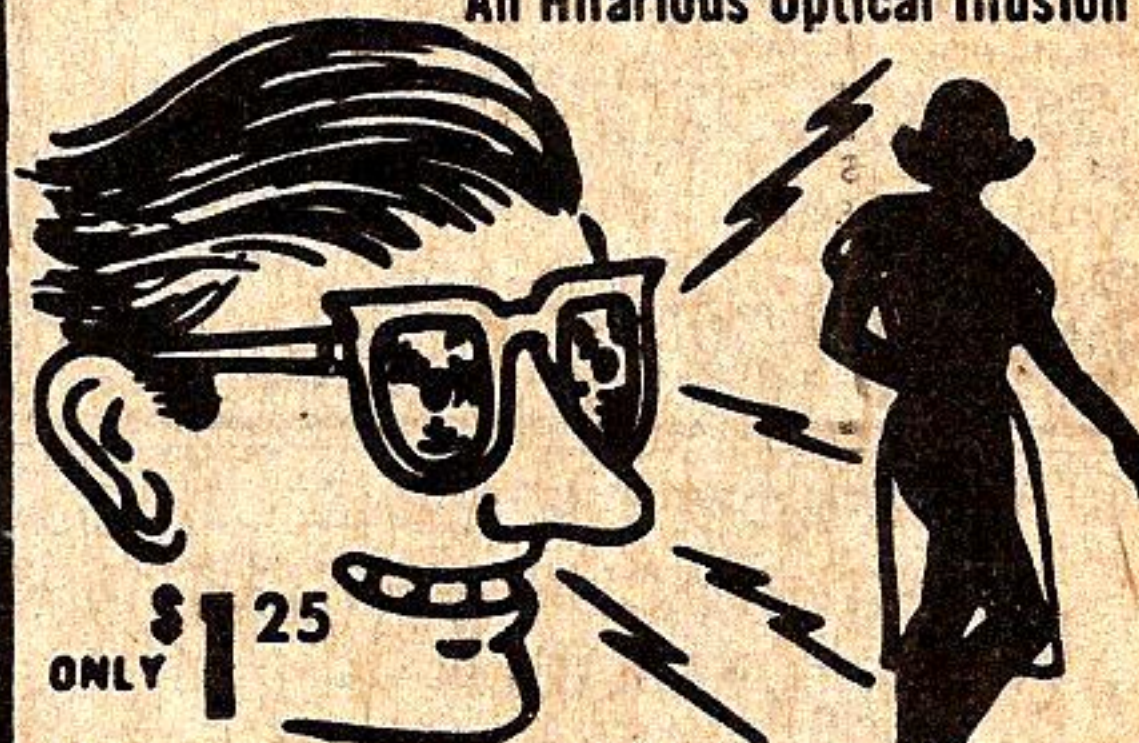
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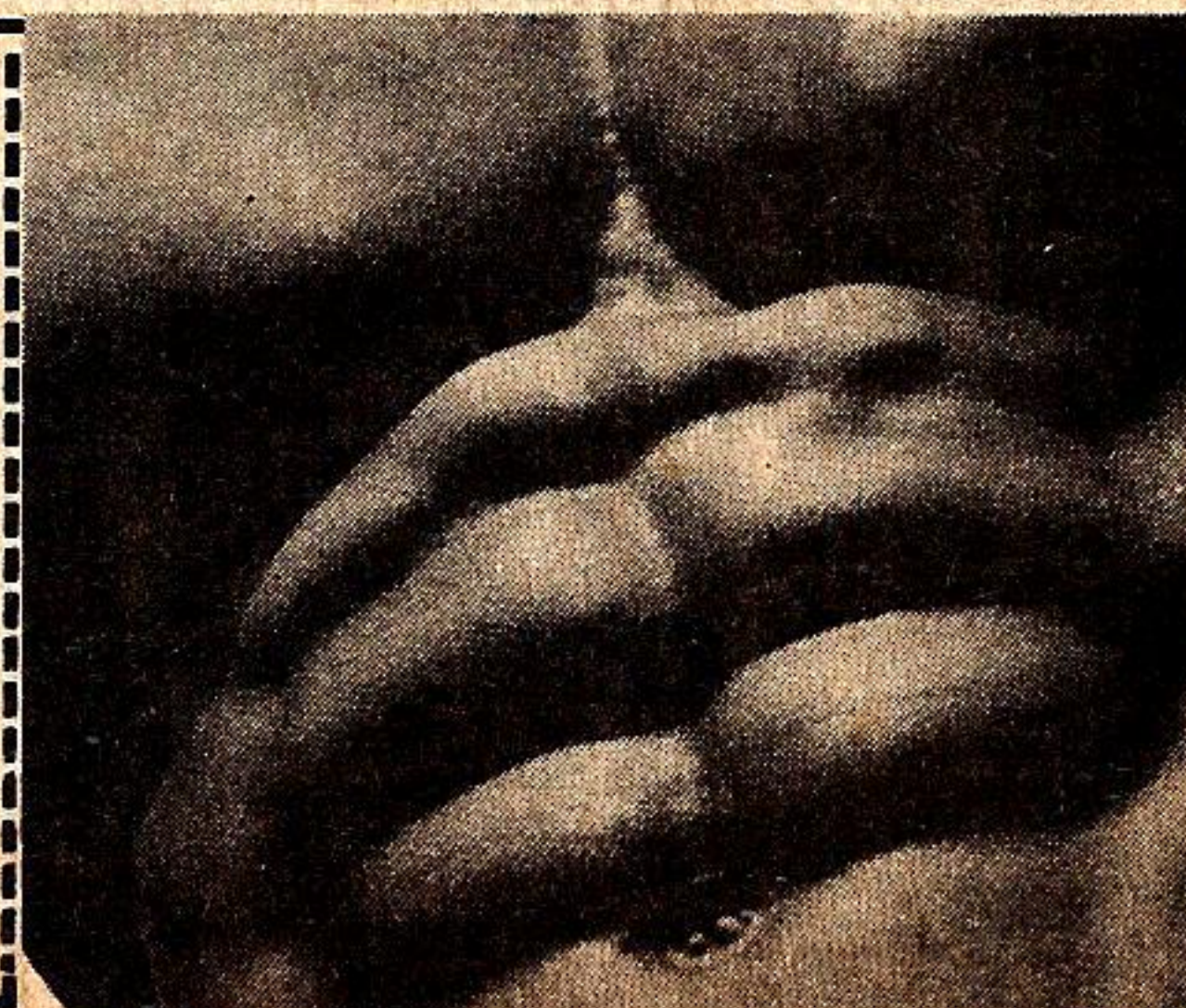
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"we don't wrestle as a team unless you clean up your tactics. The fans are great and I want to be on their side. I hate being compared to guys like The Sheik. Those days are all over for us John."

"Drop dead!" the astonished Tolos exclaimed. Then he spit in Blassie's face. That was it. The team once united in a strong friendship had been dissolved.

Within the next few days, Fred accepted many single matches against men the fans hated. They were shocked at Freddie's change. They loved it.

Tolos didn't. And he announced his displeasure by pulling out of the tag team title match. Blassie didn't care one bit.

Fred's change of heart was so widely accepted that fans voted Fred the most popular wrestler. Many schools invited him to speak at assemblies and they made Blassie an honorary principal of one school.

Fred was in seventh heaven. He was in love with the world and happy without Tolos. But Tolos wanted to get Blassie out of the limelight.

So, on the day Blassie was awarded the trophy as "The Most Popular Wrestler on The West Coast," Tolos got his two cents in and almost ended Blassie's career.

As Fred was thanking the fans, John Tolos grabbed the ringside doctor's utility bag and stole a small box of Monsel's powder. He ripped it open and gutlessly threw it in Blassie's face! Tolos grabbed the trophy as horrified fans watched in shock as Fred collapsed, screaming.

The doctor came to Fred's aid as Mil Mascaras and other fan favorites chased Tolos back to the dressing room. Yes, Mil Mascaras, a Blassie enemy, was now trying to help him.

Fred was taken to the hospital where he was treated. He lost sight in both eyes for awhile. Then most of his sight returned to one eye, while the other remained with only partial sight. To this day, Fred's never gotten full sight back in one eye.

Months later, a series of the bloodiest battles west coast fans ever saw took place between Tolos and Blassie.

Years later, the feud still has not been settled. Tolos claims, "I'd do the same thing all over again." Blassie swears, "He'll never get the chance to."

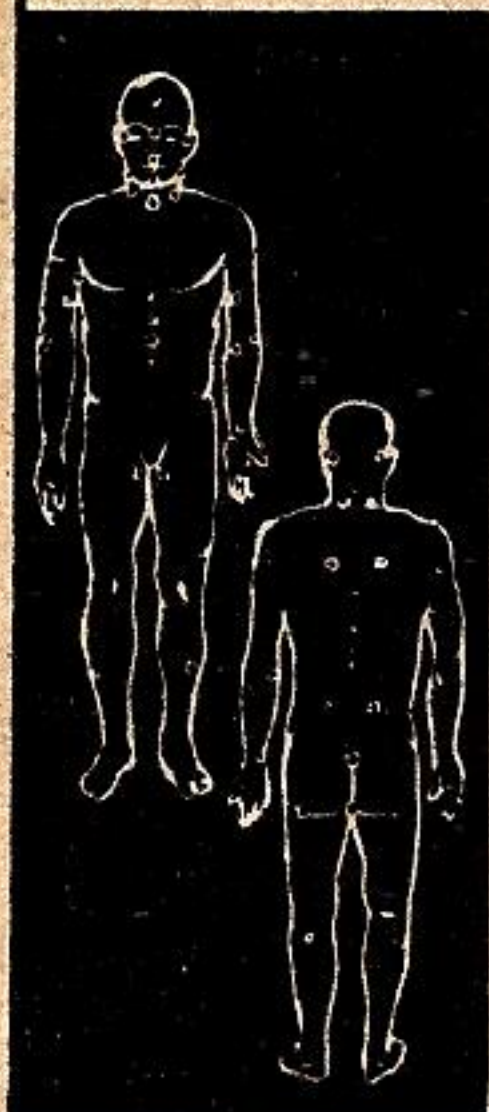
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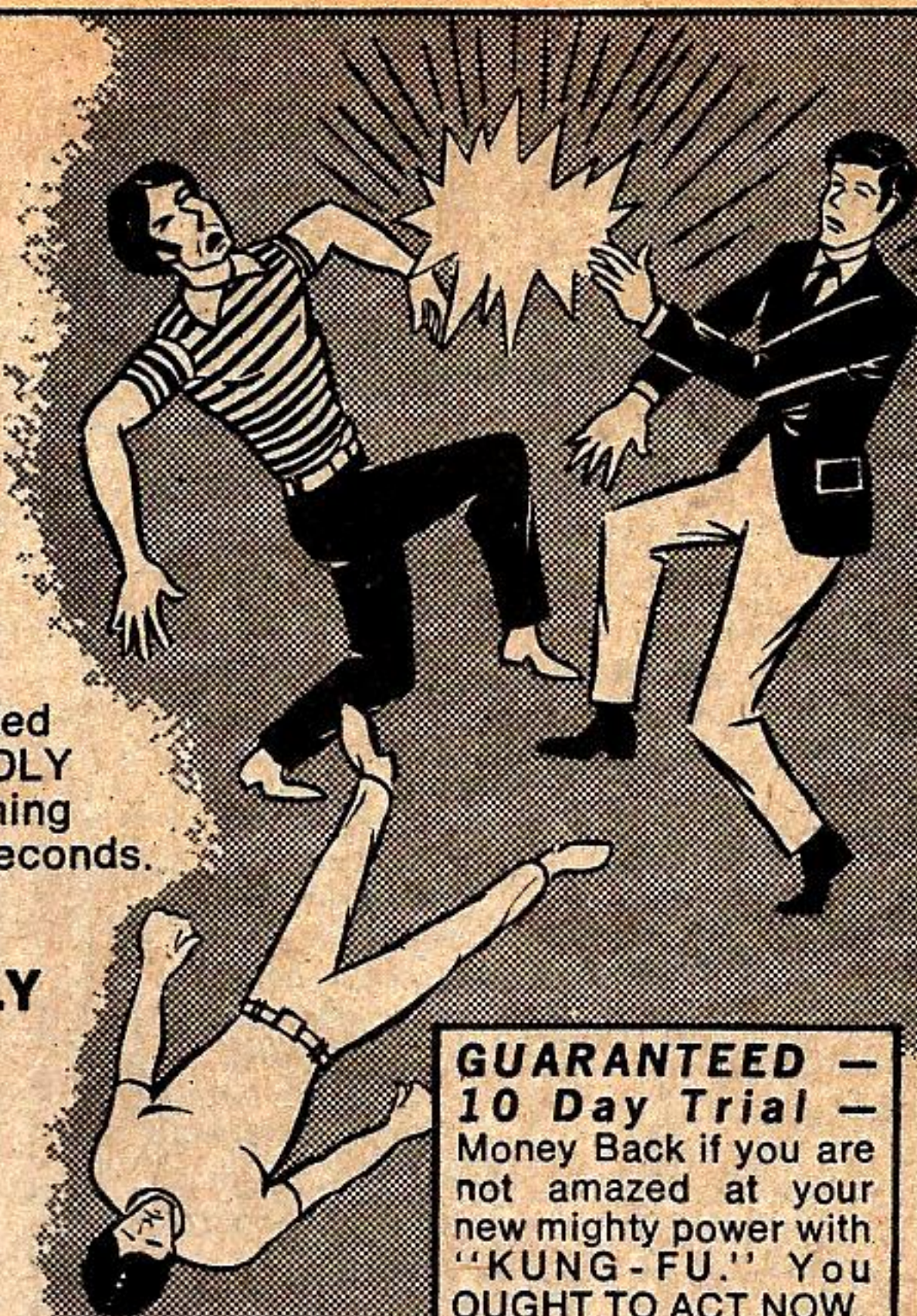
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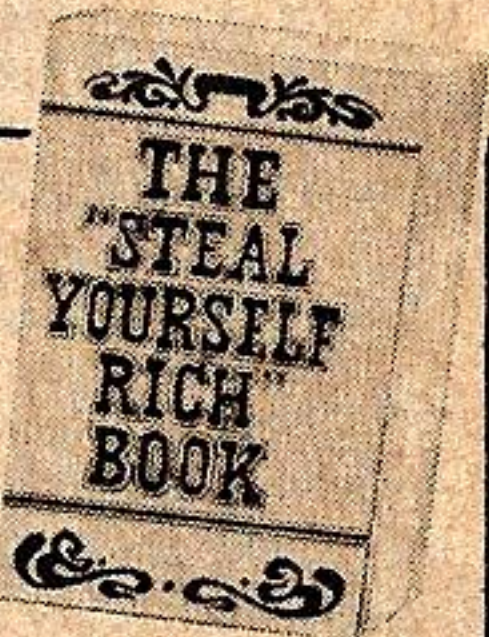
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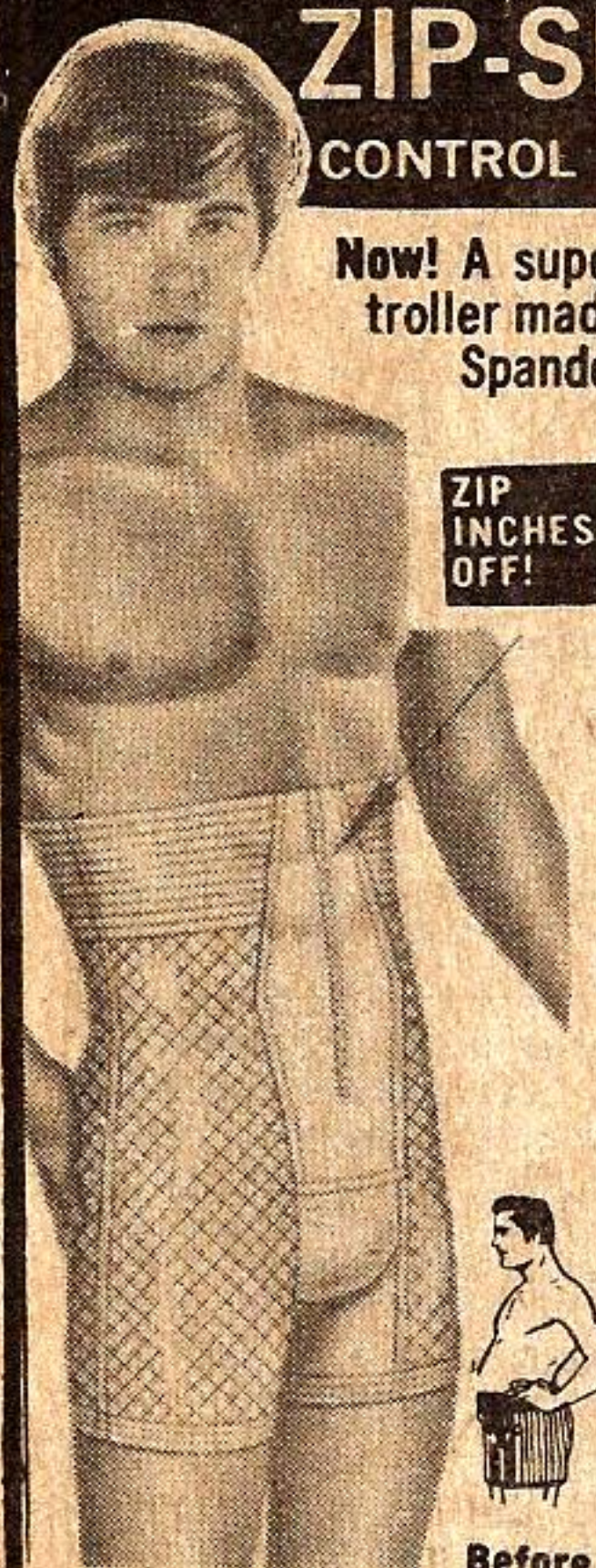
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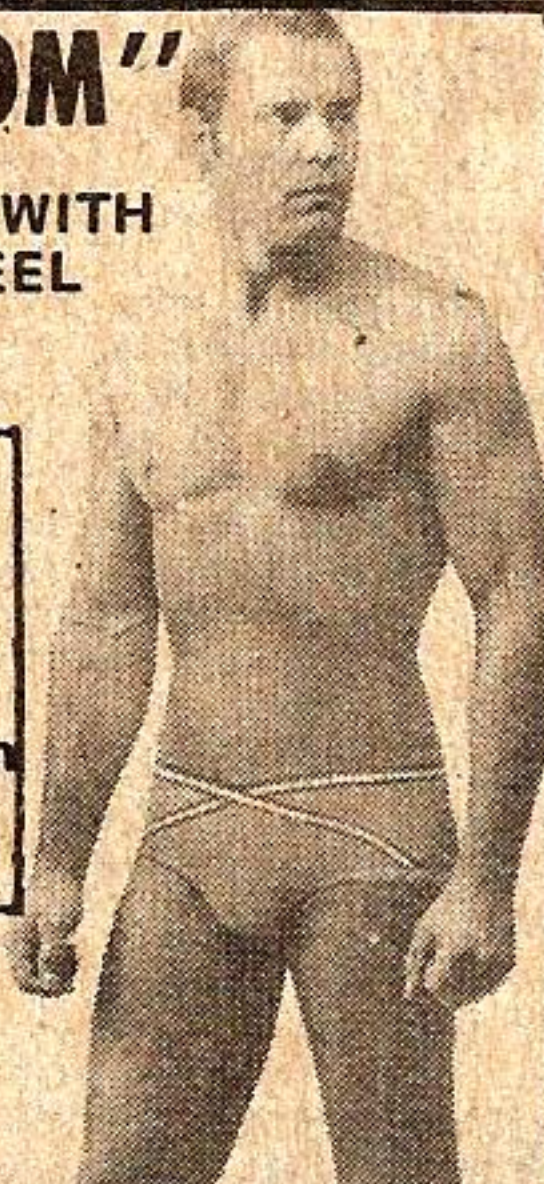
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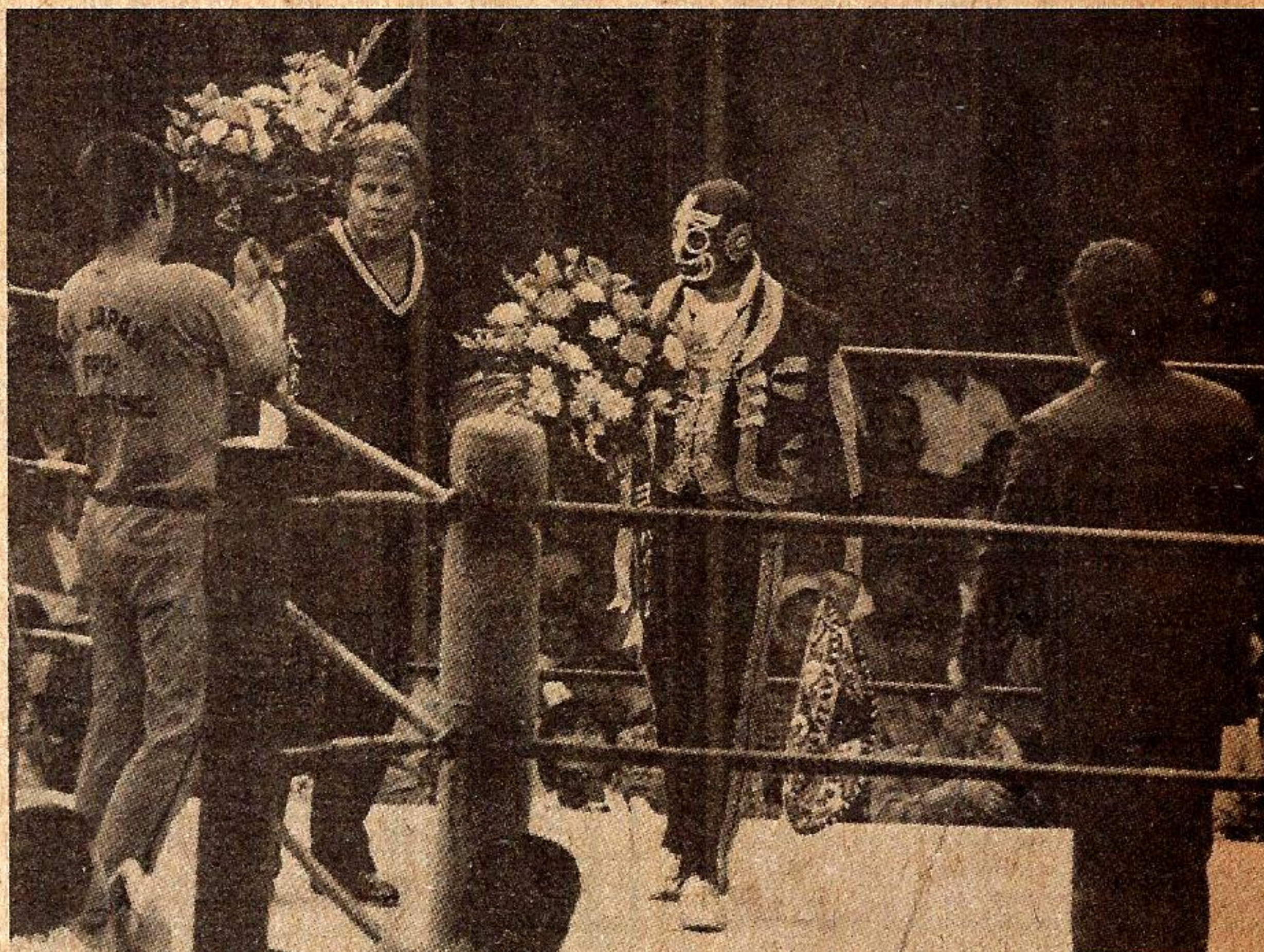
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DESTROYER

(Continued from Page 33)



Mil and partner Bob Roop are given a royal welcome (above). Mil's anxious to get rid of big Baba (right) hoping he'll tag the Destroyer. And Baba did, letting the feud get much hotter.

of his opponents is Destroyer. He has thought about it but hasn't done it.

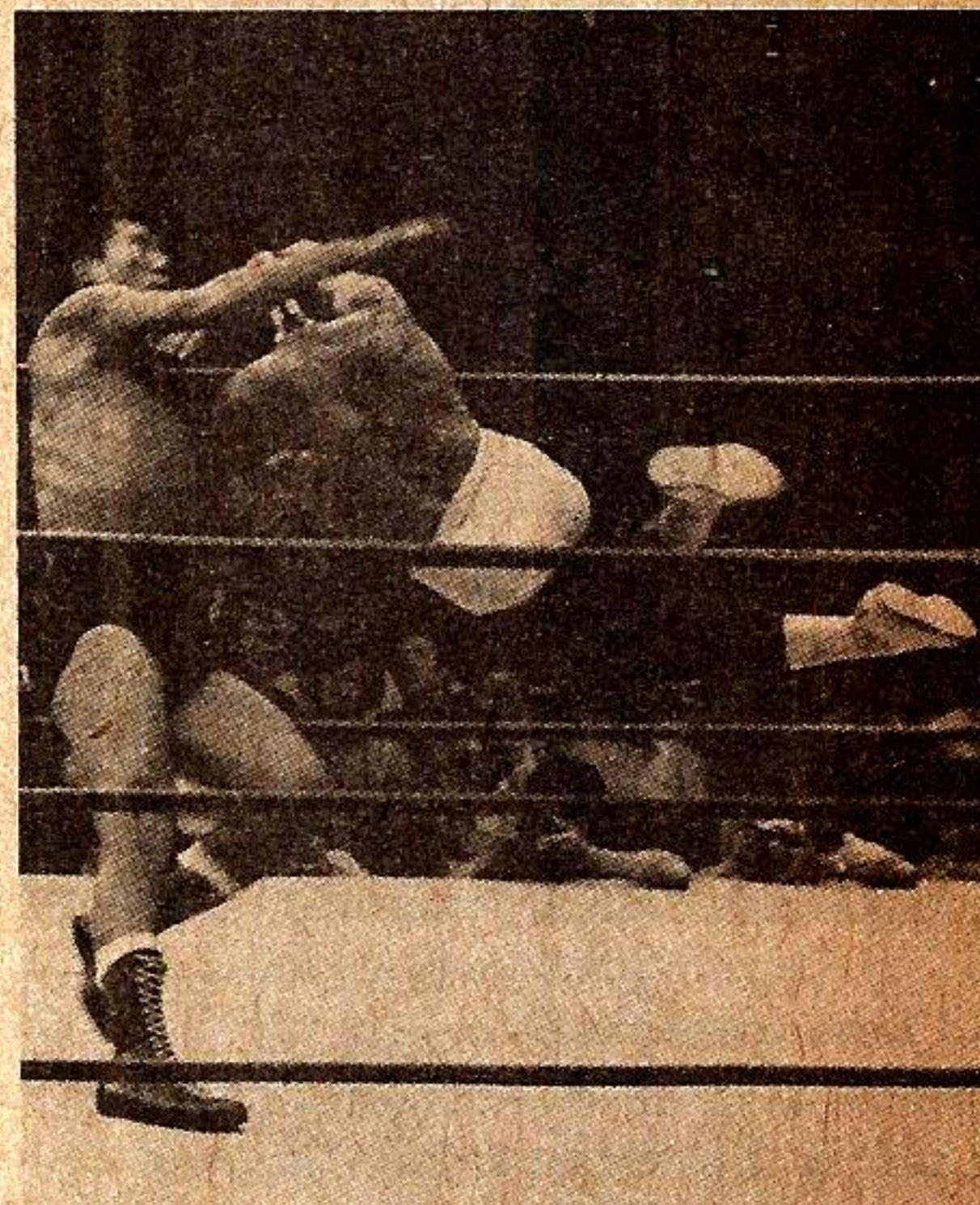
"I can't seem to be able to miss any chance to wrestle Destroyer," Mil moans, "even if I know it's unfair to my partner. I'm driven to establish my superiority. I can't miss a chance."

Destroyer regrets that he can't be an effective tag team partner when Mascaras is his opponent. But he isn't about to give up the chance to wrestle Mascaras, either.

"I'm the best," Destroyer believes, "but as long as Mascaras is around, I've got to prove it all the time. As long as doubt exists in even one person's mind, I've got to keep wrestling Mascaras. I am the greatest—and I want everyone to appreciate this!"

"Mascaras doesn't have my skill, my strength, or my cunning. Don't get me wrong, Mascaras is a fine wrestler. But I'm the greatest."

"A guy doesn't beat his brains out for years struggling to become the best to have many people come up to him and say, 'Mascaras can beat

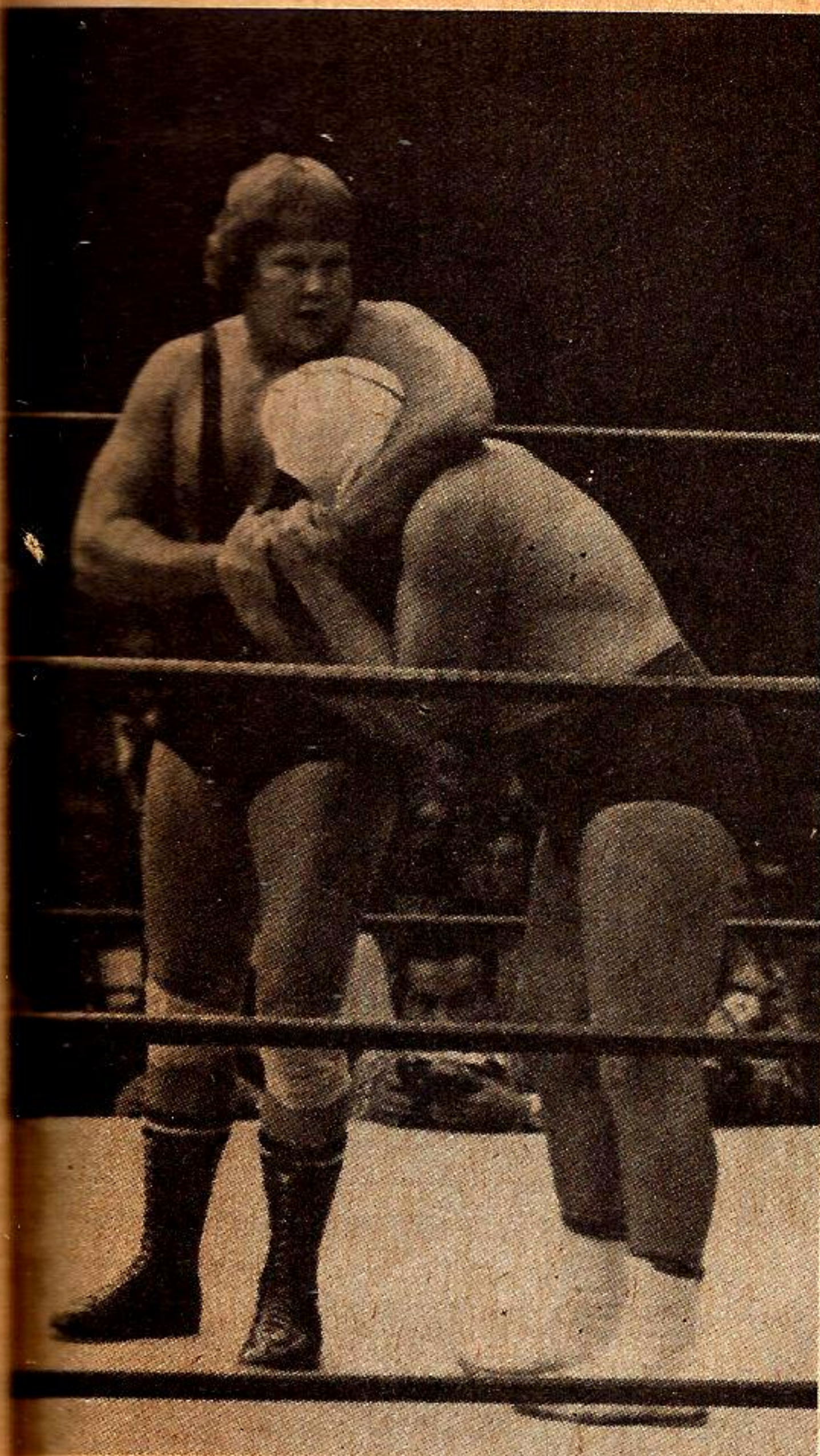


you!" It's unfair. I paid my dues and should get the rewards. Instead, I get people talking about Mascaras. Can you blame me for wanting his head any chance I can?

"Okay, I admit going after Mascaras makes me a lousy tag team partner. In other matches, I'm one of the greatest tag team partners in the world. Everyone must make some sacrifices in a partnership."

"It's not like it's a surprise. My partner knows I'm going after Mascaras. It may make it harder for him but he should have planned for it. Mascaras' partner has to make the same plans."

A recent match in Tokyo illustrates what happens. Roop and



Realizing Roop was getting mad, Mil finally tagged him and lets him get his lumps in on a man for whom he has no love either.

Baba were wrestling brutally when Baba trapped Bob in a stepover toehold. However, it was in the Mascaras-Roop corner and Bob figured he could tag Mil and be freed.

However, when Bob reached out toward his corner he saw Mil and Destroyer engaged in a brawl of their own. The two masked wrestlers were slugging it out, trying to tear each other's masks off. They were also trying to tear each other's arms and legs off. It was a savage exhibition, exciting everyone but poor Roop! Bob almost was pinned while his partner was settling a personal score.

Destroyer and Mascaras will wrestle the other opponent but it's just passing time. They are interested in one thing and one thing only—establishing their supremacy over all masked wrestlers.

When you're the partner of Mil or Destroyer and are facing the other, you're on your own. Best of luck!

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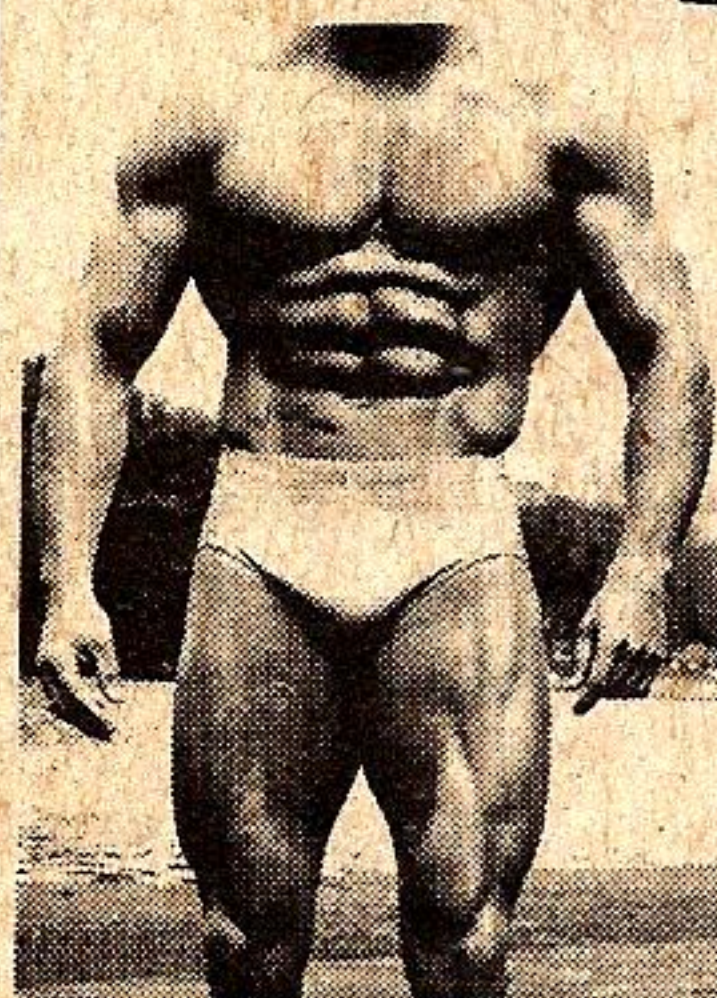
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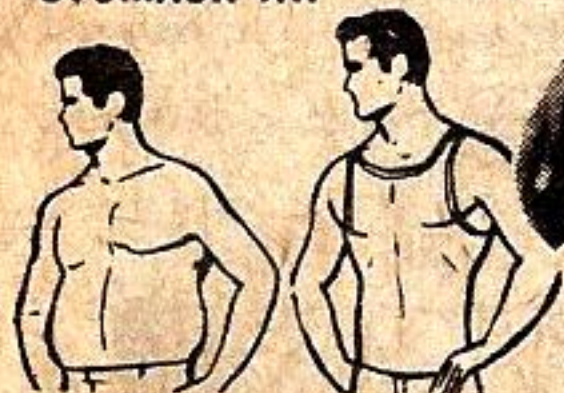
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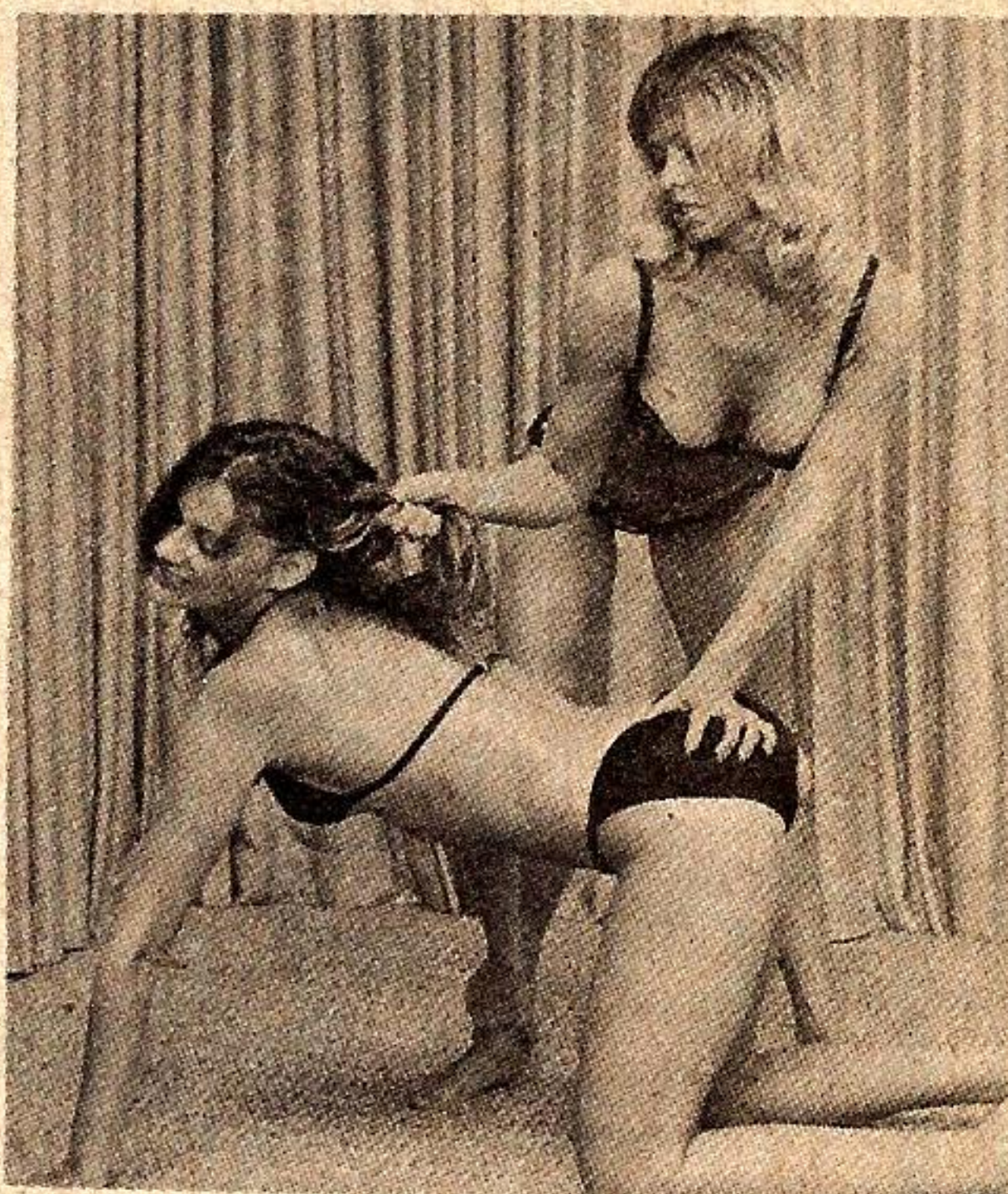
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FIRST CHAMPION

(Continued from Page 37)



Left: Denise grabs the charging Cynara and, using her momentum, flips Cynara into the wall. This was the break by which Denise won the first fall. It made Cynara more cautious.



Above: Pressing her knee hard into Cynara's groin, Denise coldly watches her victim try to squirm free. Left: Cynara yanks furiously on Denise's hair and digs her nails into Denise's soft flesh. In agony, Denise tries to trip Cynara.

couldn't do it. She was too weak and Denise smelled the kill too strongly.

Denise grabbed Cynara's leg and began to twist. The blonde tried to muffle her cries, determined not to show weakness under the torture. Though she was silent, her painfully contorted face betrayed her agony.

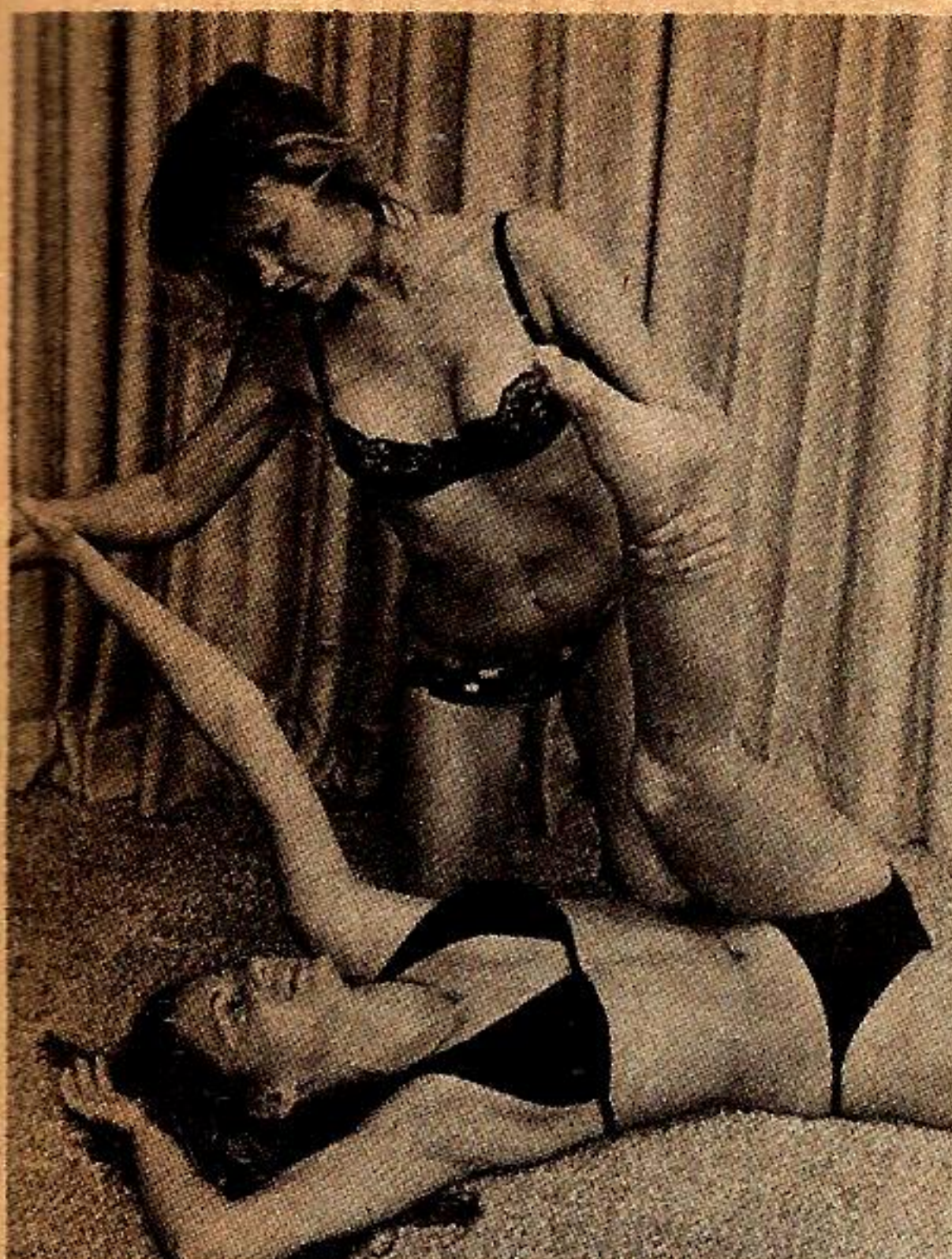
Denise twisted the leg like she was trying to rip it off—and she was! The brunette was out to cripple her opponent. Finally, when she thought Cynara had more than it is possible to withstand, Denise pinned Cynara, spreading her legs like a wishbone and pinioning her shoulders. After the fall was hers, Denise gave Cynara's leg an ugly

twist as a sign of disdain.

In the rest period between falls, Cynara walked around the apartment, trying to drive the pain from her lithe legs. When the second fall began, her cold sneer made her face terrifyingly beautiful. The first fall, and defeat, was behind her.

One look at Cynara's face and the Los Angeles fans were doubling their bets. With Denise only having to win one of the next two falls, New Yorkers were glad to take all bets.

For the second fall, Cynara went in and did what she had to do. Denise, over-confident, charged recklessly at her opponent. Cynara stood her ground. At the last moment, the blonde raised her knee



Cynara digs her knee into her victim's stomach as she unmercifully twists Denise's arms and legs to win her fall (above).

and it smacked the surprised brunette in the stomach!

Denise fell to the carpet. This time she was not playing games—the girl was hurt. Cynara was slightly more careful when she attacked and she was far more effective. Like a lioness ready for the kill, she jumped on Denise's back.

Cynara grabbed the brunette's jaw from behind and her powerful fingers painfully mauled the joint. Denise, her courage exceeding her strength, desperately struggled to her feet. But Cynara expertly followed her every movement, never releasing the agonizing hold.

Then, when she felt the brunette's body weaken from the pain, Cynara cruelly hurled her, by her head, high in the air. She came crashing face-first into the carpet!

Cynara then leapt onto the prostrate body, landing squarely on the small of Denise's back. The brunette could offer only token resistance as the blonde turned her over and pinned her. Remembering Denise's post-fall leg twist, Cynara slammed her elbow into the brunette's jaw as she arose from her fallen opponent.

The Los Angeles fans almost broke the glass coffee table tops with their shouts, they were so joyously loud. New York fans, confident in Denise's ability to take advantage of the smallest mistake and go in for the kill, doubled

(Continued on page 60)

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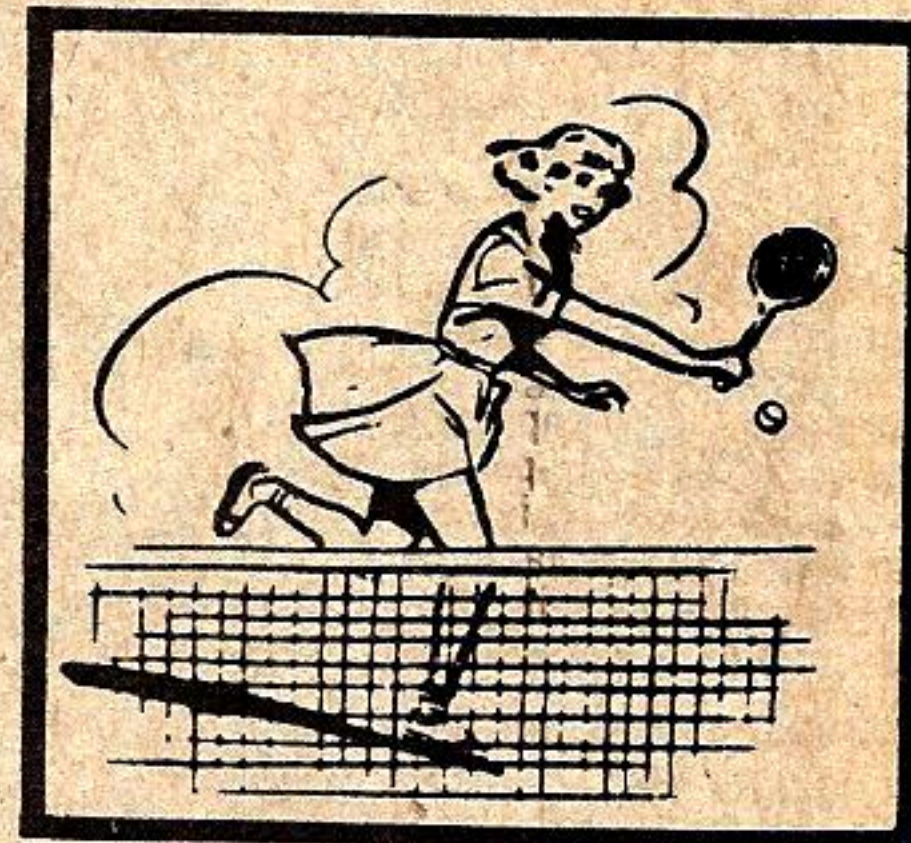
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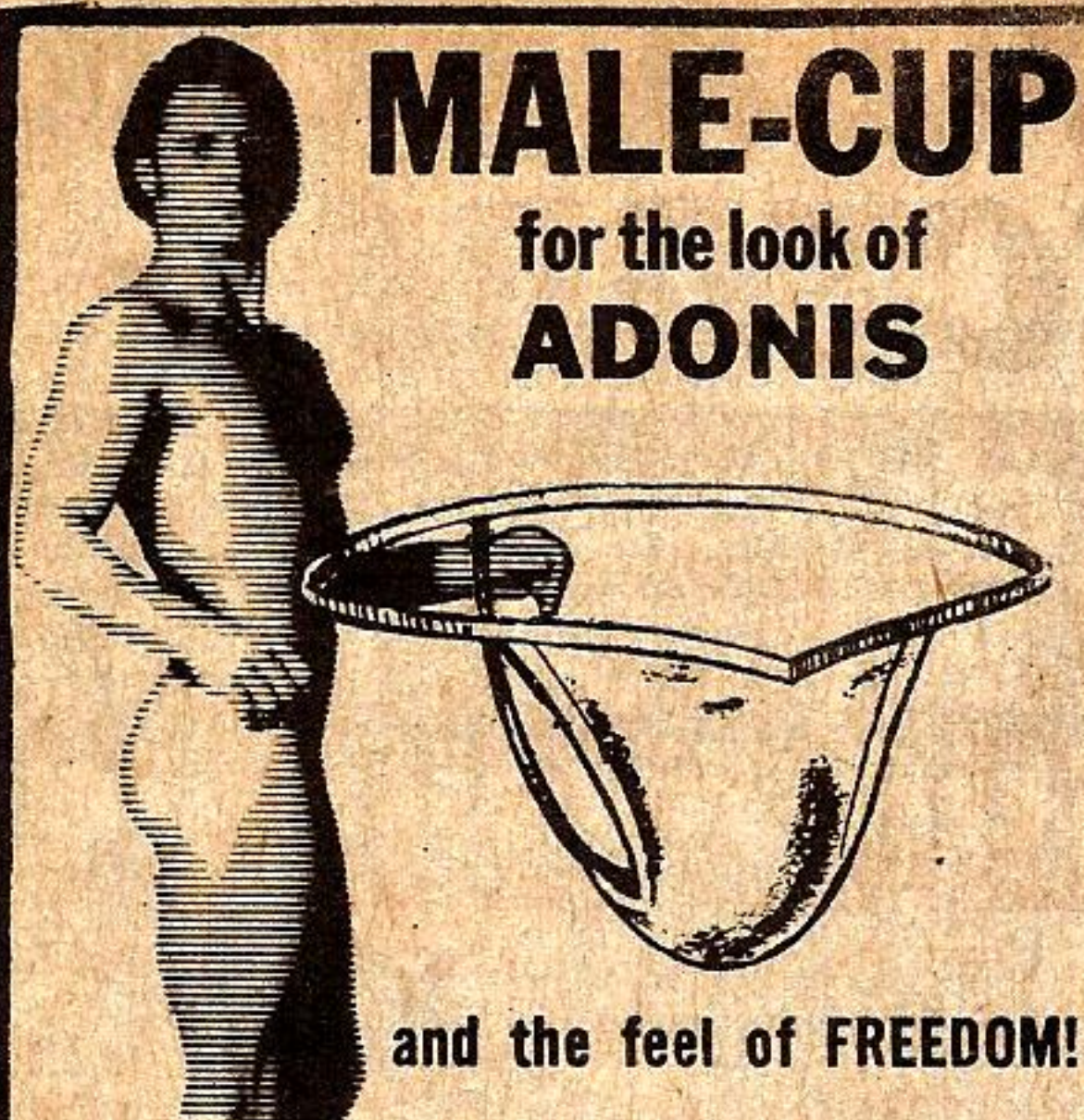
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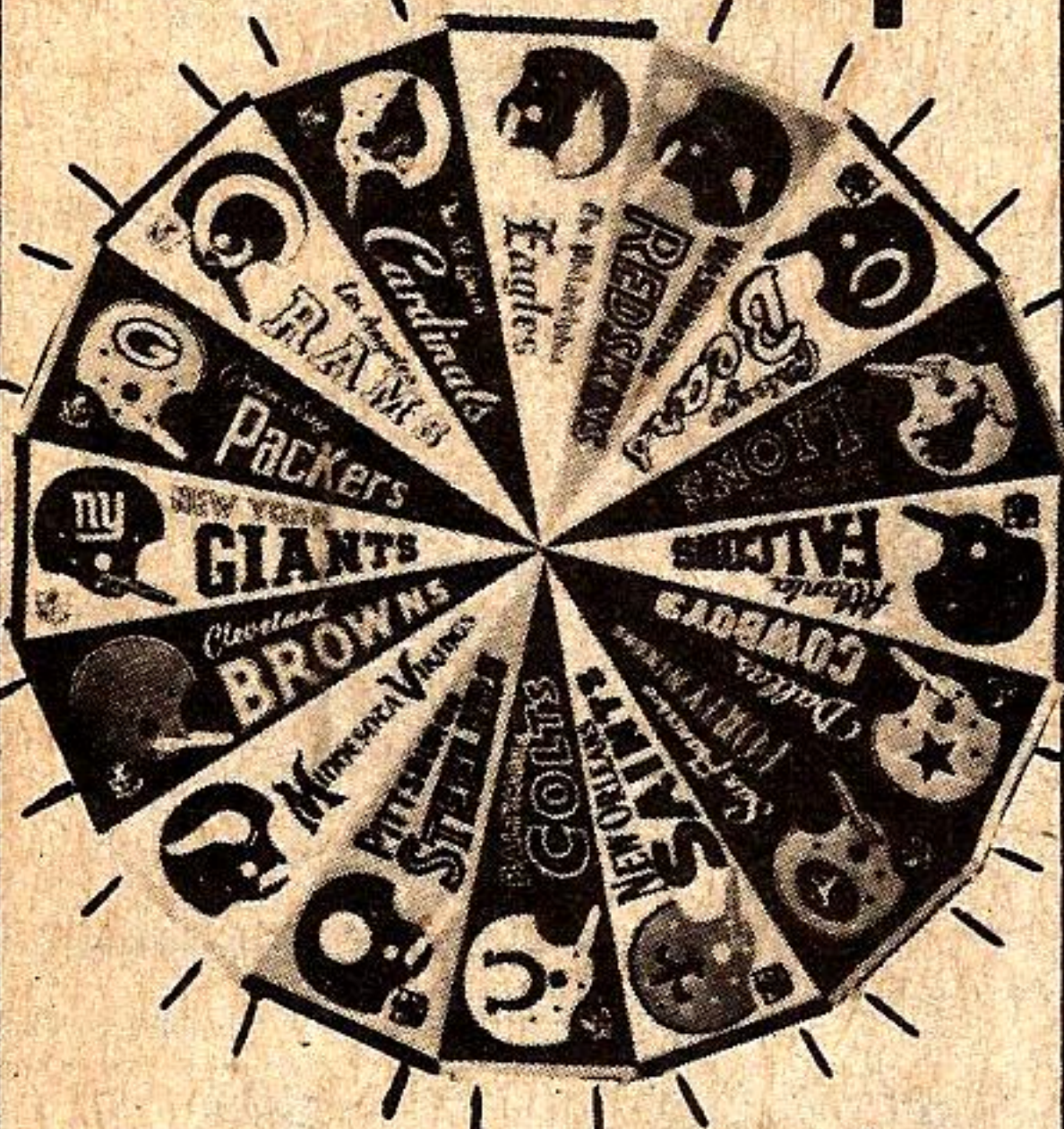
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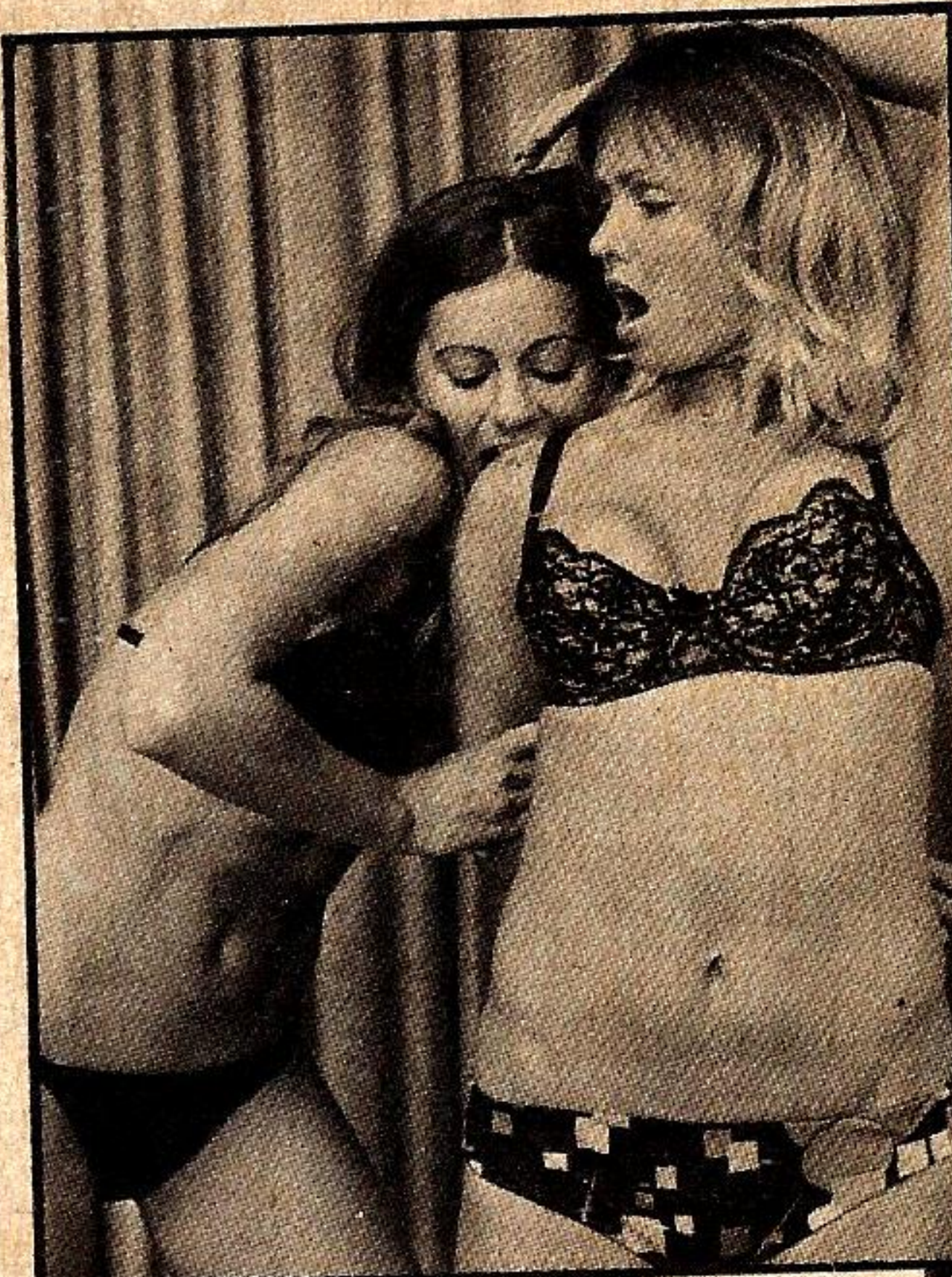
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FIRST CHAMPION

(Continued from Page 59)



Left: Denise digs her teeth into Cynara's shoulder as she tries to twist the arm from its socket. Below: The girls resort to twisting any limb available.



their betting.

As for Denise, she shook off the punishment she received by sheer will. Both girls were covered with bruises but neither seemed to notice. Victory was in the grasp of each and neither was about to let it slip through her fingers.

The two girls charged at each other like wild animals and the comparison remained valid throughout the fall. The two grabbed at each other and rolled, snarling, across the carpet, their taut bodies trying to overpower the other with brute strength.

All rules were forgotten as both determined girls remembered only one thing—the winner of the fall would be champion and the loser would be the loser.

Nothing else mattered!

The match became a savage display of kicking, biting, hairpulling, and punching. The girls choked each other with a vicious ferocity while their free arm delivered repeated punches. Fans were awed into silence by the display.

As the battle raged, a perfect right cross by Denise made Cynara groggy. As she lay on the carpet, Denise leaped high into the air to come crashing down for the kill. It looked like it was all over.

But by some unconscious instinct, the almost finished Cynara rolled away just as Denise came crashing

down. The brunette landed squarely on her knee and gave out with an involuntary scream.

Denise tried to get to her feet but she was hobbling badly. Cynara had already shaken off the pain. She waited like a patient beast of prey as Denise stumbled inexorably toward her.

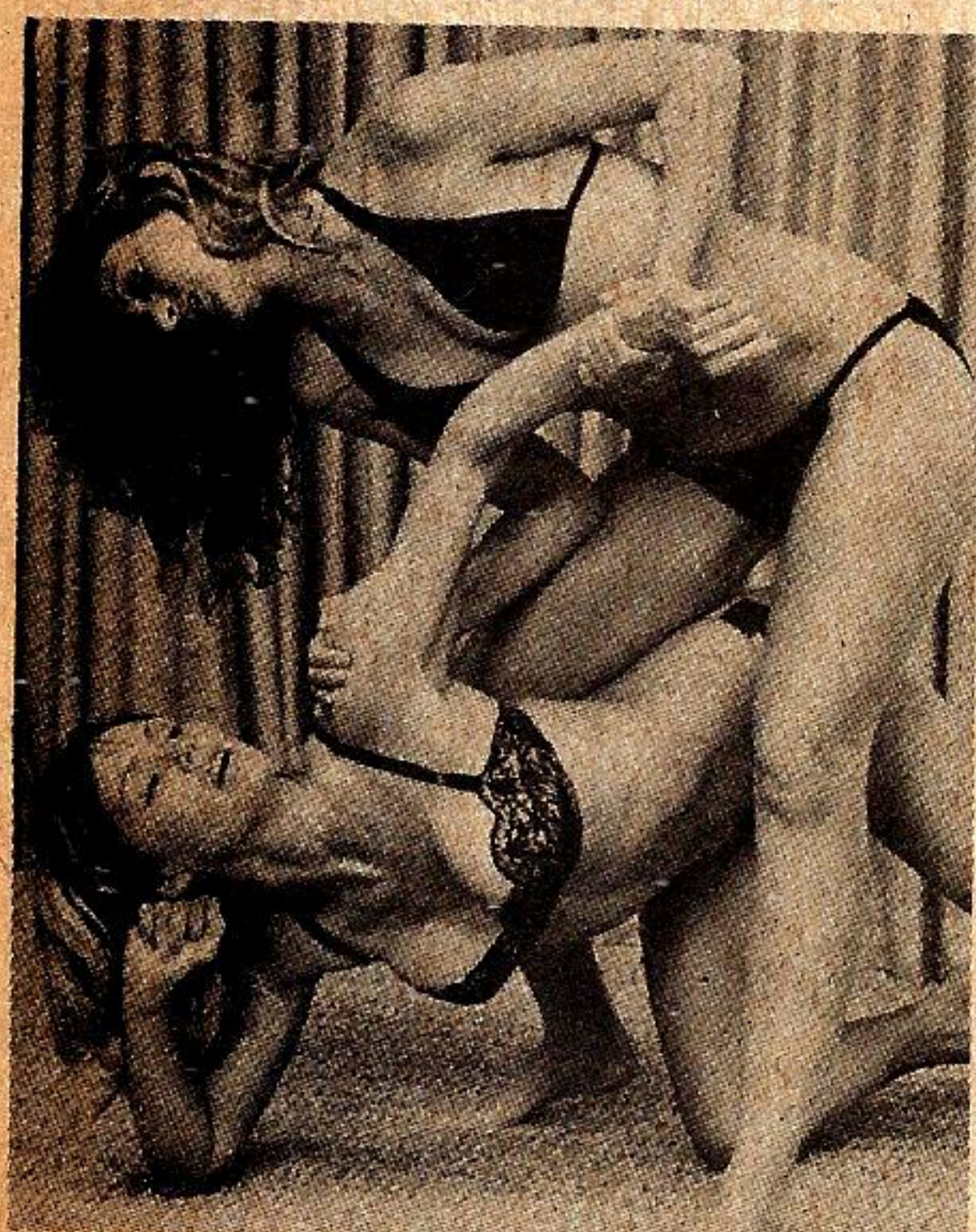
With one swift motion she grabbed the string of Denise's bikini top with her left hand and pulled the brunette toward her. As Denise fell closer, Cynara slammed a short right cross to her head. Denise reeled from the blow and sank to her knees. A short savage kick to Denise's head had the poor girl on her back.

Cynara slammed her knee into Denise's stomach and held the brunette's shoulders to the carpet. Denise struggled but in vain. The world's first apartment house wrestling champion was Cynara!

When Cynara freed her, Denise angrily stomped to her room to



Denise grabs anything available in her attempt to get leverage (above). Cynara groans in pain as Denise tries to dislocate her shoulder, which would give her the championship (below).



change and leave unnoticed. She was fuming in rage and hobbling in pain.

The Los Angeles fans, made much richer, crowded around their champion. Cynara behaved with the cool assurance of a winner.

"This is a great honor," Cynara said later, "and I will defend it well and often. I'll even give Denise another chance to lose. This is the beginning of Queen Cynara's reign as apartment house wrestling champion!"

To which we can only add, "Long live the Queen!" ☐

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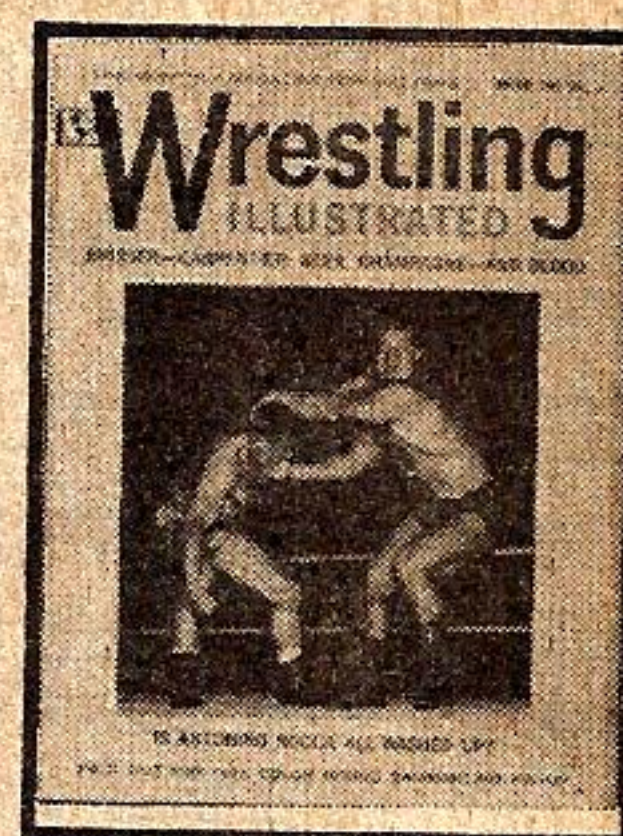
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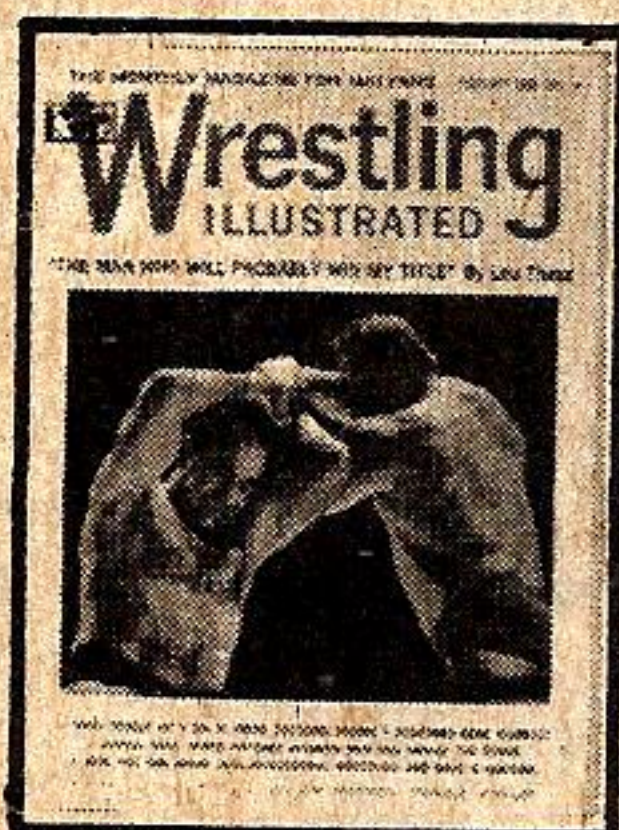
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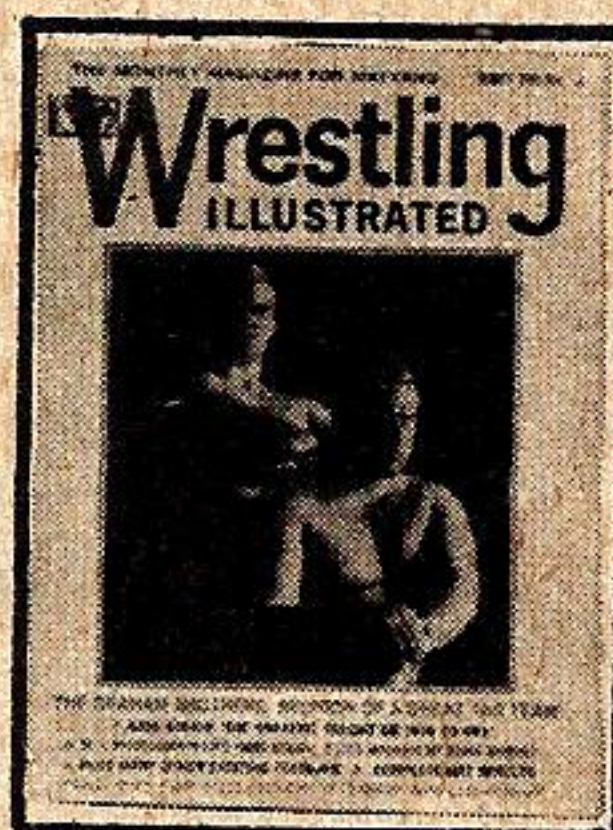
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S-Q-U-A-S-H!

PHOTO BY GARY DUBIN

Mike sailing down upon him is almost the last thing Goliath ever sees. Mike's flying body press almost killed Goliath!

GOLIATH'S LIFE PASSED in front of his eyes. As a backdrop, Man Mountain Mike's coveralls, hurtling at him closer and closer, did nicely.

The gargantuan wrestler had climbed the rope and jumped off. He hurled himself full toward the body of Goliath, who saw his opponent coming at him. Goliath could do nothing but wait for the inevitable.

The inevitable came. With his full force behind it, Mike came plummeting down on Goliath.

The canvas shook like a leaf in a hurricane when Mike landed. Goliath's body was forced to absorb the entire weight of the fall!

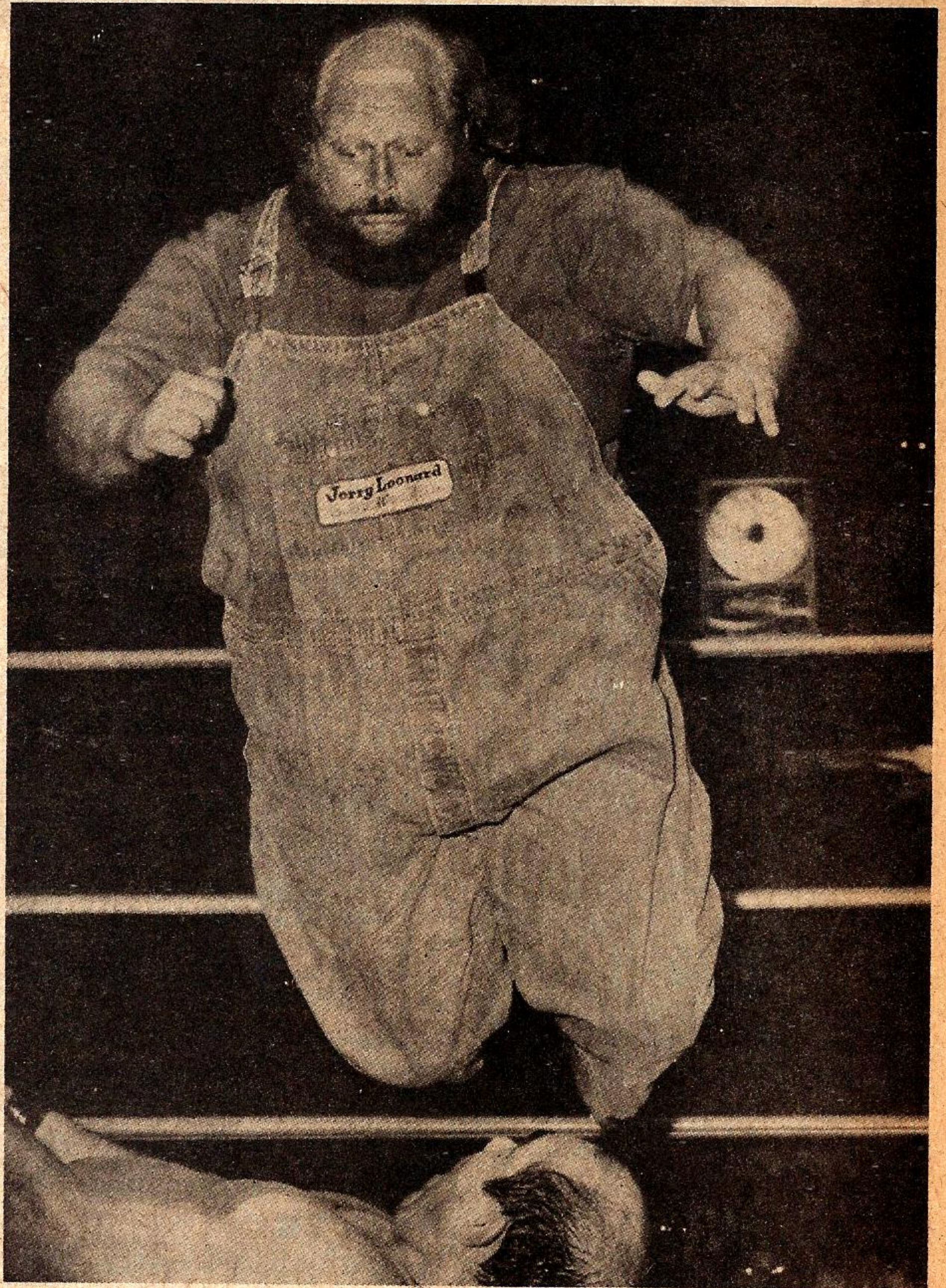
The grunt which came from Goliath was heard throughout the arena. If any air was left in Goliath, his lungs didn't know about it. His face turned blue and his gasps for breath were pathetic.

Now it was Mike's chance to be terrified. He'd thought he'd killed Goliath. And he wasn't too far off. He quickly jumped up and the referee began mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

Goliath gulped in the air. He was soon breathing—not regularly but sufficiently. His normal color began to return and violent choking ensued.

Still gasping and choking, Goliath was led to the dressing room. They placed him down on the dressing table, allowing his strength to return. The doctor determined that two ribs were broken. Goliath lay down for an hour, however, before he felt his shaky legs could carry him.

"That is the last time," Goliath vowed as he was aided out of the arena, "I'll never be under something like that again!" □



First Goliath was terrified when Man Mountain Mike hurtled down upon him. Then Man Mountain Mike was terrified when he thought he'd killed Goliath!

PHOTO BY GARY DUBIN

S-P-L-A-S-H!

Professor Dale Lewis has made some new friends, which means his old friends are his new enemies. A beer in his face is just the beginning



IT'S OBVIOUS DALE Lewis has some new friends by what his former friends are doing about it.

The Professor has become fast friends with many of the West Coast's favorite wrestlers, which is not par for the course where Lewis is concerned. He's usually thick with those whom the fans would like to see beaten senseless. And the man the fans usually most wanted to see battered to a pulp was Dale Lewis.

Now there has been a slight but noticeable change. Not surprisingly, the ones who notice it the most are the ones Lewis seems to have forsaken. And they are not taking

Instead of slapping his face with a glove, like knights of old, Brannigan challenges Dale Lewis with a glass of beer!

the slight lying down!

One man who feels the most betrayed, because to him any betrayal is a great betrayal, is Butcher Brannigan. Brannigan is infamous for making life miserable for people he feels have changed their methods and friends.

"Either you're with me," Butcher has said many times, "or you're against me. There can be no two ways about it."

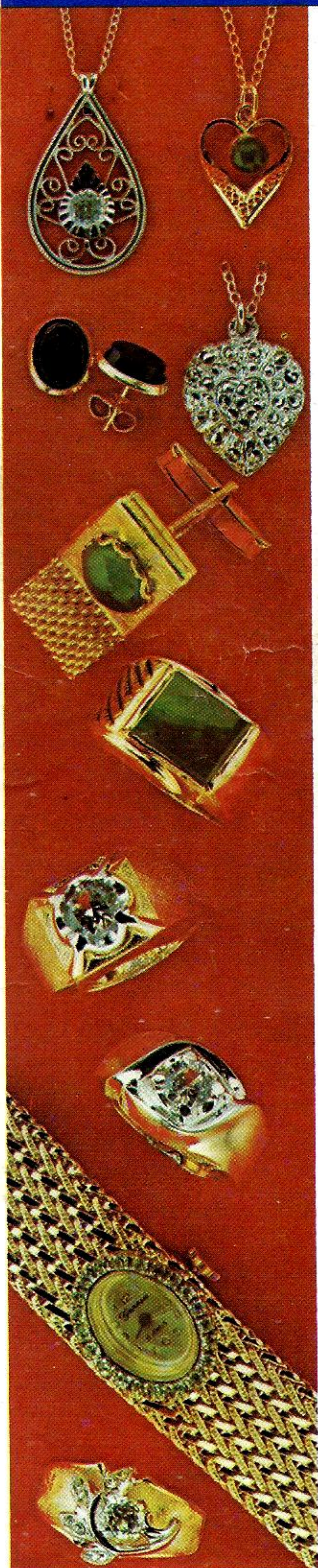
Butcher proved his point recently

during a match in which Lewis was struggling manfully. It was a terrific battle and the slightest advantage would turn the tide. Brannigan was there, waiting for his chance.

As Lewis turned to the ropes, Brannigan rushed at him with a container of beer in his hand. Before he could do anything about it, Lewis had a faceful of beer. Temporarily blinded, Dale was mauled by his opponent.

Watching Dale struggle bravely but helplessly, Brannigan laughed and shouted, "A friend in need is a friend indeed...but it isn't Butcher!" □

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HIGHLAND PARK,
NEW JERSEY 08904

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MR.
MRS.
MS.

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The Minton Collection Dept. W-91

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